

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

19 October 2017

Thursday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

19 OCTOBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	Business Mirror p.A2
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-4	Another Marawi Siege? Never again	Edith Regalado	The Phil Star p.1
5-6	FB chat: Frat men planned cover up	Jocelyn R uy	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
7	Militiamen shot dead by NPA rebels	Emmanuel Tupas	The Phil Star p.15
8	Photo: Taking it easy	Keith BAcongco	Mla Bulletin p.1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
9	P10B neede to rebuild Marawi	Jeoffrey Maitem	PDI p.A10
10	Maute remnants told: Surrender is only way out	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
11	AFP sa natitirang Maute: Sumuko o mamatay!	Jpy Cantos	Ngayon p.2
12	Marawi siege: 163 militar; 47 sibilyan; 847 Maute patay		Police Files p.2
13	Military continues operation to clear Marawi of straggler	Rene Acosta	Business Mirror p.A3
14	Gov't warns of retaliation by terrorists		PDI p.A6
15-16	Martial law stays while threats remain	Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B1
17	No decision yet on lifting Mindanao ML	EMontano	Peoples Journal p.3
18-19	Up next, NPA's end by 2018 – AFP Chief	Mario J Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
20	HK trip ni Digong sa sumabak na lady soldiers sa Marawi	Aileen Taliping	Abante p.2
21	Hapilon's cousins surrender	Rolel Pareno	The Phil Star p.15
22-23	Lady terror propagandist collared	Jeffrey G Damicog	Mla Bulletin p.1
24	Maute recruiter falls; cops on alert	Bill Casas	Mla Standard p.A1
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
25	Pinaigting pa ng tropa ang pagtugis sa mga nalalabing terorista sa Marawi		Balita p.6
26	Saludo ang lahat sa mga sundalo na ipinaglaban ang Kalayaan ng Marawi	Win Gatchalian	Bulgar p.3
27-28	Rebuilding Marawi better	Felino A Palafox Jr	The Mla Times p.A5
29	Bittersweet triumph		The Mla Times p.A4
30	Troops closing in Marawi		Mla Bulletin p.8
31-32	Marawi's lessons		Business Mirror p.A10

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

33-34	Salute to the troops for freeing Marawi	Federico D Pascual	The Phil Star p.8
35	No spillover		The Phil Star p.8
36-37	Quashed	Alex Magno	The Phil Star p.8
38	Did MAute and Hapilon die 'shaheed'?	Macabangkit B Lanto	PDI p.A13
39	Death of terrorists	Charita R Tingga	PDI p.A14
ONLINE NEWS			
40	STATEMENT: Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo on retaliatory attacks	www.dwdd.com.ph	Alvin Santiago
41	STATEMENT: Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo on Marawi Liberation	www.dwdd.com.ph	Alvin Santiago
42	SELFLESS SERVICE: Naval Forces western Mindanao @ 21	www.dwdd.com.ph	Alvin Santiago

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

19 October 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A2

BusinessMirror



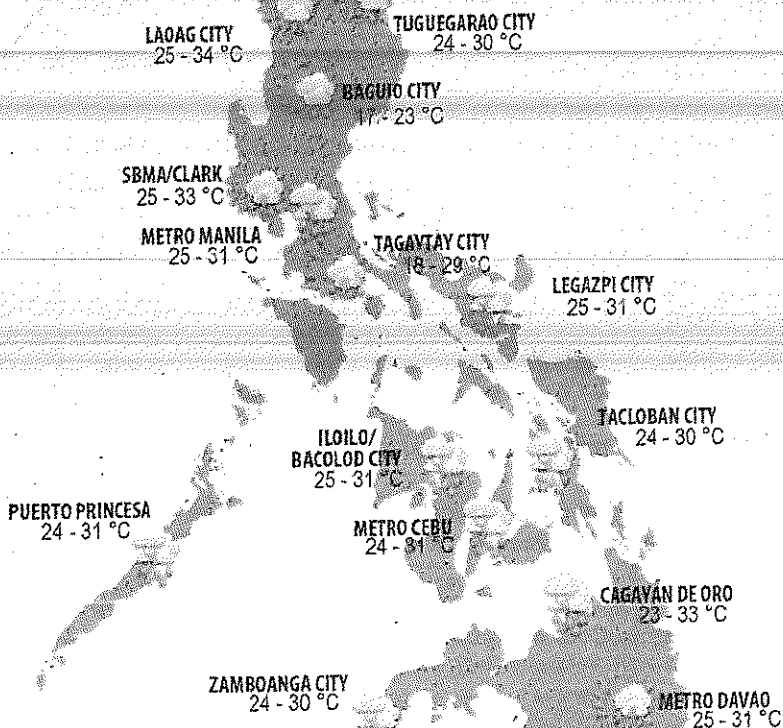
3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST

	OCT 20 Friday	OCT 21 Saturday	OCT 22 Sunday
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C
LAOAG	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 23 °C	17 - 23 °C	17 - 24 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	19 - 29 °C	17 - 28 °C	19 - 28 °C
LEGAZPI	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C

TODAY'S WEATHER

OCTOBER 19, 2017 | THURSDAY

TYPHOON "PAOLO"
910 KM EAST OF LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY
LOW PRESSURE AREA
335 KM WEST OF PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN
(As of 4:00 PM - October 18, 2017)



Watch PanahonTV on DZRH News Television from Monday to Friday at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.



Another

From Page 1

OFFICE OF THE

over Marawi in May arrived in groups apparently to avoid alerting authorities. They had intended to transform the city into the capital of their "caliphate" in Southeast Asia.

On Monday before dawn, Army Scout Rangers killed Marawi siege leaders Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf and the acknowledged Maute group head Omar Khayyam Maute. Their killing prompted President Duterte to declare Marawi liberated.

"Either we live together in peace, *makisama kayo sa Pilipino, o giyera tayu. Walang problema, marami akong sundalo. Marami kaming bala* (join the Filipino or we go to war. I have many soldiers and we have plenty of bullets)," he said in his remarks.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare Marawi City liberated from the terrorist influence that marks the beginning of rehabilitation for the people," he reiterated.

The President likewise pointed out he will never leave the soldiers who have been wounded in the conflict with the Maute. He promised to extend assistance to soldiers and policemen wounded in battle in Marawi.

"I'm telling you now, I'll never leave you. *Ipwepwesto ko silang lahat* (I'll make sure you'll have your place)," he said.

In Manila, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said the main battle area in Marawi may have to be "bulldozed" as it has been heavily devastated.

Andanar was in Marawi when President Duterte declared it liberated from terrorists last Tuesday.

"I was there on ground zero, *talagang wala ka nang mapapakinabangan eh* (everything there is worthless). You really have

to bulldoze the entire area, the ground zero," Andanar said.

Andanar said members of Task Force Bangon Marawi would meet to discuss ways to rebuild and rehabilitate the battle-ravaged city.

"We are still chasing a few people but relatively it's already safe to rebuild Marawi," he said.

But Andanar clarified that the liberation of Marawi would not immediately lead to the lifting of martial law in Mindanao.

"I wouldn't say that I would leave that to the President, because we all know there are still (terrorist) elements in Basilan and in Jolo, Sulu," the official said.

"We talked to rescued hostages about three days ago. They said only a few (foreign fighters) remained in the battle field," he said.

Andanar said the terrorist position in Marawi covers no more than two hectares.

"They (government forces) have cornered the enemy. It's just a matter of time," he added.

A total of 847 terrorists, 163 government troopers and 47 civilians have died since the siege started last May.

The crisis also displaced 78,466 families or 359,680 persons.

Officials have yet to complete damage assessment but the defense department said at least P100 billion might be needed to rebuild the city. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said every step in the rehabilitation efforts would be transparent.

Transparency

DILG officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy of Task Force Bangon Marawi said they have started the necessary coordination with relevant agencies for the swift recovery, recon-

struction and rehabilitation of Marawi.

"Informing affected communities and the general public of what the government is doing for Marawi rehabilitation is part and parcel of public service," said Cuy.

He again warned the public against scammers soliciting money supposedly for Marawi evacuees.

"The hands of the law will reach fraudsters who are shamelessly using the name of poor Marawi evacuees to get money from unsuspecting victims," he said.

He urged local chief executives to help stop or arrest the scammers. "Help yourself from being a victim of extortionists and be part of the solution. These swindlers will have nowhere to run if we all take appropriate action. Let's not be victims of their ruse," he said.

He added an Information Management and Strategic Communication Support Group (IMSCSG) headed by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) and co-headed by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) has been created to ensure transparency and prevent irregularities.

5295

"Now is the time to show and tell the Filipino people what the government, as a whole, can do through close cooperation and one vision at *iyon ng makauwi ang mga taga-Marawi sa kanilang lungsod na mapayapa at maunlad* (so residents of Marawi can return to a peaceful and progressive city)," said DILG Assistant Secretary for Special Concerns Marjorie Jalosjos. She said the IMSCSG would ensure that all Marawi rebuilding narratives are consistent and accurate.

"There is a development master plan to bring back a better Marawi and Lanao (Maranao people's term for Lanao del Sur)," she said.

Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña, for his part, lauded the breakthroughs in the campaign to liberate Marawi and urged the administration to lift martial law in Mindanao and set into motion at once a massive rehabilitation program.

"Thank God! We can now start rebuilding Marawi City and the return of peace and order in the city, in the entire Mindanao and the whole country. Praise be to God!" he said in a statement.

Dela Peña expressed belief there is no more justification

for military rule in the region.

"It is because the siege of Marawi was used to justify the declaration of martial law for the whole of Mindanao," he argued.

"I am willing to grant the government a little more time to keep martial law if, by it, the rehabilitation of Marawi would proceed much faster," he added.

Revenge attacks

While the death of Hapilon and Maute may have signaled the end of organized resistance of the militants to government forces, their followers might be preparing retaliatory attacks even against civilian targets.

Chief Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac of the Police Regional Office-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PRO-ARMM) issued the warning as he ordered his men not to let their guard down. Hapilon was from Basilan while Maute was an ethnic Maranao.

Hapilon was the self-proclaimed "emir" of all Islamic State-inspired groups in the "caliphate" of Southern Mindanao. Maute was co-founder of the Maute terror group, also known as the Dawlah Islamiya.

"We are not taking chances. It's better ready than sorry. These are fanatics to the core and protecting innocent people from them is so necessary," Sindac said.

Six members of the ARMM police have been killed and 61 others wounded in encounters with combined Abu Sayyaf and Maute gunmen since the outbreak of hostilities in Marawi City on May 23.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command said on Wednesday that units of the 6th Infantry Division in central Mindanao were prepared for retaliatory attacks from the remaining Maute terrorists and from a sympathetic group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Galvez said the activities of a third group, a more radical faction in the BIFF under Esmael Abdulmalik, are also being monitored by security forces.

Local IS-inspired groups are known for using improvised explosive devices against non-military targets to avenge losses in encounters with government forces.

Forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has a ceasefire pact with Malacañang, killed 29 followers of Abdulmalik and took over their camps in Salibo town in Maguindanao early this month following seven weeks of deadly encounters that also left more than a dozen MILF guerrillas dead.

"Our security efforts against violent religious extremists in Maguindanao are being assisted by the MILF," Galvez said.

The government and the MILF are bound by an interim truce, the 1997 Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities, to cooperate in maintaining law and order in potential conflict-flashpoint areas in Mindanao.

Sindac said Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa, who accompanied President Duterte to Marawi City, had directed the PRO-ARMM to enlist the help of municipal and provincial peace and order councils in protecting local communities from revenge attacks by Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

"We also tapped the support of the local religious communities towards that goal," Sindac said.

Sindac and other senior PRO-ARMM officials were in Marawi City Tuesday when Duterte declared the liberation of the city from the militants.

He revealed the chief of the Marawi City police, Supt. Ebra Moxsir, would intensify religious programs of PRO-ARMM meant to counter the recruitment activities of the Maute terror group.

"Supt. Moxsir will lead these programs because he is an Islamic theologian. These non-tactical community projects are being supported extensively by our director general," Sindac said.

- With Alexis Romero, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Edu Punay, John Unson

19 October 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

FB CHAT: FRAT MEN PLANNED COVER-UP

STORY BY JOCELYN R. UY

The Manila police chief says a Facebook thread shows Aegis Juris members intended to avoid prosecution for Atio Castillo's death 'at all cost.' This is tantamount to obstruction of justice, according to Senator Zubiri.

FROM A1

By Jocelyn R. Uy
@mj_uyINQ

The Manila police chief told the Senate on Wednesday that members of Aegis Juris tried to cover up the hazing death of University of Santo Tomas (UST) law student Horacio "Atio" Castillo III.

Chief Supt. Joel Napoleon Coronel, Manila Police District (MPD) chief, told the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs inquiring into the fatal hazing of Castillo that investigators had retrieved the threaded conversations on Facebook of the fraternity members following the death of the UST law freshman.

The Facebook exchange, shown through a 38-page slide presentation at the hearing presided over by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the committee chair, was initiated by a UST graduate and member of Aegis Juris identified by Coronel as lawyer Marvi Abo.

Coronel said Abo started the exchange early on Sept. 17, the day Castillo was believed to have died from excessive beating during his initiation into the fraternity.

Avoid probe, prosecution

Coronel said the fraternity members' "tendency" to avoid investigation and prosecution "at all cost" was "very evident" in the conversations.

He also said that based on the exchanges, active members of the fraternity were aware of Castillo's death in the early hours of Sept. 17.

But Castillo's parents were notified of his death only the next day, Coronel said.

"If you review the messages, it would appear that they intend to cover up the incident, contrary to their announcement on Sept. 19 that they were willing to face investigation

and to support authorities in the conduct of the investigation," Coronel said.

He said the two Facebook threads had been submitted to the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Unit for "verification, authentication and validation," adding that MPD investigators got hold of the screenshots of the exchanges earlier this month.

The testimony of fraternity member John Paul Solano in a closed session of the committee on Sept. 25 was made public during Wednesday's hearing.

Solano was the one who took Castillo to Chinese General Hospital (CGH), where the law student was pronounced dead on arrival on Sept. 17.

Solano said he took Castillo to CGH, a 20-to-30-minute ride from the fraternity's library on Dapitan Street in Manila, on orders of Arvin Balag, alleged head of the fraternity.

He said it was also Balag who instructed him to tell the hospital staff that he found Castillo's

body in Balut, Tondo.

Cited for contempt

Balag, who was present at the hearing, was cited for contempt and ordered detained by the committee for refusing to answer questions from the senators.

Balag refused to answer even Sen. Grace Poe's question whether he was the fraternity's president.

In his testimony, Solano also identified fraternity member Oliver John Audrey Onofre as the one who called him twice on Sept. 17 to ask him to come to the fraternity's library, as someone had "collapsed."

In the library, he said he saw fraternity members Axel Hipe, Marc Ventura and two others he identified only as Zak and Dan.

Solano denied seeing another suspect in Castillo's death, Ralph Trangia, but said Castillo's body was taken to the hospital in Trangia's red pickup.

Coronel said the vehicle, a Mitsubishi Strada with license plate ZTV 539, was registered in

the name of Trangia's father, Antonio Trangia.

Poe asked the Trangias if they owned the vehicle but they declined to answer, invoking their right against self-incrimination.

What to do

Coronel said the Facebook conversations showed the fraternity members were discussing what to do after learning that Castillo had died.

He said that in the exchanges, Abo was encouraging the fraternity members to hold a meeting, which was held at Novotel in Quezon City the same day that Castillo died.

Coronel said the chat group included 30 fraternity members, 19 of whom went to the meeting.

Of the 19, he said, 12 had been identified through their social media information.

Coronel also ran security camera footage showing Aegis Juris members in an elevator at Novotel.

"Based on the exchange of communication from these frat

5285. 5295

OFFICE O

members, it would appear that the tendency of the frat to conceal or to obstruct justice is very evident, wherein they would like to evade, avoid at all cost, investigation and prosecution of this case," Coronel said.

He said that some members favored facing the problem squarely, but the majority suggested that they avoid prosecution, as it might compromise the future of "brods" involved in the hazing.

Settlement suggested

Coronel also said there were portions of the exchanges that suggested getting in touch with Castillo's parents immediately and reaching a settlement to keep them quiet.

A screen grab has a fraternity member, lawyer Alston Kevin Anarna, saying in Filipino: "Brod, his family is wealthy. They can get a search warrant tomorrow for the frat [library]. Let's get it cleaned, remove the paddle."

A certain Pareng Edong says: "Denial. Never ever give any hint."

In the chat, Abo says he has instructed "GP Arvin" a reference to Balag, to go home to Subic.

Coronel said a comment made by another fraternity member, Jose Miguel Salamat, showed that he had the cell phone of Castillo.

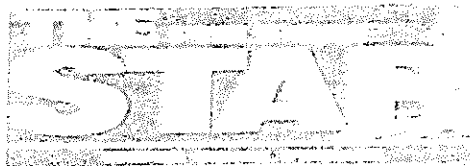
Speaking in Filipino, Salamat says in the chat. "The father called the cell phone, brod. The parents have called Axel and Ralph. Brod, the cell phone is flooded with messages from the mother and the father."

Reviewing the messages in the thread, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri said the points raised in the conversations were "obviously obstruction of justice and clearly a cover-up."

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian observed that none of the fraternity members suggested calling the authorities.

"It confirms the analysis of [Chief Superintendent] Coronel that this group really was bent on covering up the injustice that happened to Atio," Gatchalian said. INQ

19 October 2017



Page: 15

Militiaman shot dead by NPA rebels

A member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit-Active Auxiliary was shot dead by suspected communist rebels in Palapag, Northern Samar yesterday.

Pedro Verano, 50, was walking in Barangay Sangay at about 4:30 p.m. when two New People's Army (NPA) rebels approached and shot him twice, Chief Inspector Ma. Bella Rentuaya, Eastern Visayas police spokesperson, said.

Meanwhile, in Sultan Kudarat, five NPA guerrillas surrendered and turned over three rifles to soldiers in Barangay Nililidan, Kalamansig.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, 6th Infantry Division commander, said the surrender was a "positive outcome" of an effective collaboration between the military and civil authorities. - **Emmanuel Tupas, Michael Punongbayan**

19 October 2017

Page: 1
MARILAU BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TAKING IT EASY - With Marawi declared liberated after almost five months of street-to-street battles, a group of Army soldiers find the time for a photograph Tuesday in front of a bombed-out building in the city's Banggolo District. (Keith Bacongco)

19 October 2017



Page: A10

P10B needed to rebuild Marawi

Defense chief says full rehab to start next year; urban planner wants ground zero turned into memorial

By Jeffrey Maitem
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Now that President Duterte has declared this city free from terrorists, the government will need P10 billion to rebuild Marawi, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana, in an interview here on Monday, said the government would need the funds ready by next year for the full-swing rehabilitation of the city.

On Tuesday, the President declared Marawi “liberated from terrorists’ influence” following the deaths of top terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute during a military operation on Monday.

Architect and urban planner Felino Palafox Jr., who commit-

ted to help in the reconstruction of Marawi, recommended to provincial officials of Lanao del Sur to make the ruins of Marawi a historic memorial as a reminder of how terrorism could destroy a peaceful city.

“I’ve been in post-disaster rehabilitation [programs]—big earthquakes, tsunami and big floods—[and] Marawi is the worst [I have seen],” Palafox told reporters here also on Monday.

“We still believe that the ground zero should be preserved as a lesson for future generations,” he said.

Palafox said local officials had “accepted in principle” his recommendation.

“Their only concern was social acceptance,” he added.



VICTORIOUS Government soldiers patrol sections of the main battle area in Marawi City after President Duterte announced the city’s liberation from terrorists. —PHOTOS BY JEFFREY MAITEM

“Rehabilitate, maybe, the places of worship, education and the significant buildings. The damaged ones, they can be retained, especially those full of

bullet [holes] as a lesson for the future on how terrorism can destroy a peaceful city,” Palafox said.

Palafox, citing the extent of

destruction in the city, estimated that it might take “70 years” to bring Marawi back to what it was before Islamic State-inspired terror groups, led by Hapilon and Maute and his brothers, laid siege to the city on May 23.

Intense fighting and airstrikes since May reduced sections of the city to rubble, forcing thousands of residents to flee to neighboring cities and provinces. Some families in Marawi left Mindanao to start anew in areas in the Visayas and Luzon.

As of Monday, the death toll on the government side reached 163 while more than 1,700 soldiers were wounded.

The military earlier reported that 822 terrorists and 47 civil-

ians were killed in the fighting.

Lorenzana said the military spent more than P5 billion in the Marawi war.

But in a press conference in Malacañang on Tuesday, Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said the conflict had cost the military at least P2 billion.

The money, Lorenzana said, went to ammunition, fuel, food and allowances of soldiers in the last four months, he said.

“But the Department of Budget and Management has allocated [funds to] support evacuees, for construction of houses [and] repair of bridges up to the end of the year,” Lorenzana told reporters here on Wednesday.

19 October 2017

Malaya
The Nation's Key

Page: B1

Maute remnants told: Surrender is only way out

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday told remnants of the Maute Group in Marawi City to surrender, hinting the Islamic State-inspired terrorists will end up dead if they continue fighting it out with government troops.

"We are calling on them to surrender. The only way to get out alive is to surrender," Año said.

Officials have said only about 30 Maute men remain in Marawi City which President Duterte declared free of "terrorist influence" on Tuesday, after almost five months of fighting. The declaration came a day after two terrorist leaders, Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, were killed by government forces.

The remnants are no longer considered

a serious threat and getting them is seen by Año as a "law enforcement matter."

Año said the terrorists, who are holding 20 hostages, are constricted in a one-hectare area near Lanao Lake.

"But just the same, we will not abandon it... We are not going to stop until we get the stragglers," he added.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military's Joint Task Force Ranao, said the Maute remnants will end up dead if they do not surrender.

"It's surrender or die, that is our message," he said. "They are surrounded, even from the lake."

Brawner said fierce fighting between government forces and Maute members continue even after the declaration of the liberation of the city.

Brawner said four Maute members were

killed and 10 soldiers were wounded in last Tuesday's fighting. He said the fighting occurred after President Duterte's announced the liberation of the city.

Since May 23 when the Maute attacked the city, 854 terrorists have been killed. On the government side, 163 soldiers and policemen have died, together with 47 civilians.

Brawner said there has been no change in the intensity of the current fighting compared to pre-liberation. He also said the military has not set any projection as to when it will totally clear the city of Maute members.

Año said slain Hapilon, senior Abu Sayyaf leader said to have been anointed IS leader for Southeast Asia, had offered

See MAUTE > Page B6

MAUTE

millions of pesos to anyone who can facilitate his escape and that of his men.

Military officials earlier said Hapilon and other terror leaders brought family members with them to Marawi.

"That was the plan of Hapilon -- get out of the main battle area with his remaining men and his family. In fact, he offered millions

to anyone who can provide a banca (boat) and guide them out of the main battle area," he said.

He said the terrorists looted some P1 billion in cash and belongings from banks and other structures, and buried these "so that after the siege, if they escape, they will come back for them."

Last Monday, Año said the military successfully blocked the escape of Maute members from Marawi.

14 October 2017



Pahina. 2

AFP sa natitirang Maute: Sumuko o mamatay!

Binigyan ng ultimatum kahapon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año ang mga nalalabi pang Maute-ISIS sa battle zone sa Marawi City na mag-sabab sa kanilang mga lungga kung nais pang mabuhay.

Ito'y matapos ideklara na kamakalawa ni Pangulong Duterte na malaya na sa terorismo ang lungsod

ng Marawi matapos mapatay ang dalawang lider nitong sina Isnihan Hapilon at Omar Maute.

"We will make sure that we will get the remaining Maute-ISIS here, the only way to get out alive is to surrender," ani Año na sinabing napapalibutan na ng tropang militar ang nalalabi pang 20 terorista.

Ayon kay Año, nakapokus rin ang kanilang operasyon upang iligtas ang tinatayang 18-20 pang hostages na hawak ng Maute.

NI JOY CANTOS

"There are still stragglers left who are now the subjects for manhunt, and there are also hostages we need to rescue. I believe that they (hostages) are somewhere there in the buildings but afraid to go out but I can say that the danger or the risk is not that high," anang Chief of Staff

These stragglers are on the run for survival but we will not stop until we get all the remaining stragglers," dagdag pa nito.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang Maute-ISIS ay pinamunuan ng Malaysian ISIS na si Dr. Ahmad Mahmoud, kasama ang pito pang foreign fighters at nalalabi pang miyembro ng mga Maute. Si Mahmoud ang sinasabing namumuno sa patuloy na bakbakan sa lugar.

Samantalang pinalilibutan na ng tropa ng militar ang isang hektaryang lugar na pinagtataguan ng mga terorista malapit sa pier na kanugnog ng Lanao Lake. Sinabi naman ni Año

na higit na naging mabilis ang liberation ng Marawi City sa mga teroristang ISIS at mga kaalyado nitong Maute sa lungsod na naisakatuparan ng mga sundalo sa loob ng 148 araw kumpara sa Mosul at Raqqa, na pawang sa Iraq na tumagal ng tatlong taon. Ang Raqqa ay napalaya sa ISIS nitó lamang Martes.

Sa rekord ng militar simula May 23 o sa loob ng 148 araw ay umaabot sa 847 ang mga napasiang na Maute, 47 sibilyan at 162 government forces.

19 October 2017

PUBLIC FILES

Page. 2

Marawi siege: 163 militar, 47 sibilyan, 847 Maute patay

HINDI naging madali para sa puwersa ng gobyerno ang pagbawi sa Marawi City mula sa mga galamay ng Maute group.

Sa pinakahuling tala ng militar, aabot sa 163 sundalo ang nagbuwis ng buhay at marami pa ang nasugatan-upang makuhang muli naturang lungsod.

Sa kabuuan, bukod sa 163 sundalo, nasa 47 sibilyan pa ang namatay sa halos limang buwang bakbakan. Nasa 847 iniyem-

bro naman ng Maute terror group ang napatay ng pinagsamang puwersa ng militar at pulisya.

Libu-libo namang residente ang napilitang iwan ang kanilang mga tahanan sa gitna ng bakbakan at manirahan sa mga evacuation shelters ng halos limang buwan.

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, ang Marawi Siege ang itinuturing nilang pinakamatinding opera-

syon na kanilang isinakatuparan sa kasaysayan ng bansa.

Sa katotohanan aniya, mas matindi pa ang naging bakbakan sa Marawi City kung ikukumpara sa Zamboanga siege noong 2013.

Nitong Martes, opisyal nang idineklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na 'liberated' na ang Marawi City isang araw matapos mapatay sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.

19 October 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A3

Military continues operation to clear Marawi of 'straggler'



A FEMALE soldier holds the hand of a Maranao lass temporarily residing at the Bahay Pagasa, a temporary housing facility to some 50 families in Barangay Bito Buadi Itowa in Marawi City.

NONIE REYES

BY RENE ACOSTA

[@reneacostaBM](#)

THE military will continue its operation in Marawi City despite Tuesday's declaration of President Duterte that it has been liberated from the clutches of the Islamic State (IS)-Maute Group and is ready for rehabilitation.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año said on Wednesday that the assault will push on with the hope of rescuing the remaining 18 hostages and neutralizing the remaining fighters of the IS-Maute following the death of their leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute on Monday.

"There were stragglers that were still left, and they are the subjects of our manhunt [operations]. There are also 18 hostages that are needed to be rescued," said Año, believing the captives were just inside buildings.

"They were just afraid to come out," he said, although believing the risks against the hostages were no longer that strong as the remaining terrorists were already on the run following the death of their two leaders.

According to Año, the terrorists, whom the military called as

stragglers following the killings of their leaders, still include Malaysian financier Dr. Mahmud Ahmad and about eight Malaysians and Indonesian jihadists.

The chief of staff said the IS-Maute members were already cornered at the pier area, almost beside the Lanao Lake.

"This is just about 1 hectare. It only has buildings and structures, that is why we need to be careful, but this place is already small. In fact, hunting them would just have been a police matter, but just the same, we will not abandon it," Año said.

"We will make sure that we will get the remaining Maute-IS here, and we are also issuing calls that they should surrender. The only way to get out alive is to surrender," he added.

Año said the Marawi fighting underscored the need to continue acquiring equipment that enhances the capability of soldiers, especially ground forces, since modern-day warfare is no longer in the hinterlands but on city streets.

The battle, he added, the military with sniper rifles with better scopes and sights. Año also mentioned the important role played by armored vehicles.

19 October 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A6

GOV'T WARNS OF RETALIATION BY TERRORISTS

FROM A1

Mindanao now that the siege of Marawi is over.

Government troops killed on Monday Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute terrorist group leader Omarkhayam Maute, the last two leaders of the Dawla Islamiya terrorist alliance that seized large parts of Marawi on May 23.

The bodies of the two terrorist leaders had been recovered and identified, the military said.

President Duterte declared Marawi "liberated from terrorist influence" on Tuesday, although government troops were still battling 20 to 30 remaining terrorists and trying to

rescue about 20 hostages.

Military officials said they expected the fighting to end soon.

With the deaths of Hapilon and Maute, "the terror threat has been mitigated," Representatives Tom Villarin, Teddy Baguilat and Edgar Erice said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Martial law in Mindanao has lost its reason for being and should be lifted," they added.

In a separate statement, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano reminded Mr. Duterte that on Sept. 21 in Marawi City, he declared that he would lift his martial law declaration after the clearing operations.

"I hope it was not just a joke to appease rallyists at that

time," Alejano said.

There was no immediate comment from Malacañang on Wednesday, but Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the military, said on Tuesday that consultations would be held to determine whether martial law, which Mr. Duterte clamped on Mindanao on May 23 following the terrorist attack on Marawi, could now be lifted.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also said the lifting of martial law would be decided before the end of October.

Threat from sympathizers

Padilla said the threat of terror remained, as sympathizers of the Abu Sayyaf and Maute

groups could lay siege to another urban area or bomb and harass other communities in Mindanao.

Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, chief of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), had ordered troops to be on alert for retaliatory attacks by sympathizers of the terrorists, Maj. Ezra Balagtay, spokesperson for the Eastmincom, said on Wednesday.

"The directive includes the intensification of security operations in different areas and the terroritorial waters [under Eastmincom jurisdiction]," Balagtay said.

Eastmincom has operational control over Army and Navy units in the regions of Davao,

Caraga, South Cotabato and Sarangani and parts of Northern Mindanao.

In Cotabato City, Senior Supt. Rolly Octavio, police director of the city, said tighter security measures coordinated with the military were in place.

"We have augmentation forces from the Central Mindanao Command in securing the city," Octavio said, adding police and military officials had been reviewing the situation and planning response following the deaths of Hapilon and Maute in Marawi.

Tighter security

Supt. Bernard Tayong, spokesperson for the North Cotabato police, said security

forces across the province had been placed on heightened alert.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said the provincial police and the military's 6th Infantry Division were closely monitoring IS-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) operating in the province's second district.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesperson for the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said troops remained vigilant.

"We cannot let our guard down," Martinez said. —WITH REPORTS FROM FRINSTON LIM, EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ, DIVINA SUSON, JIGGER J. JERUSALEM AND NIKKO DIZON INQ

19 October 2017

Malaya

The Nation's Newspaper

Page: 31

Martial law stays while threats remain

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

GOVERNMENT officials yesterday said President Duterte is unlikely to lift martial law in Mindanao if threats against the public remain, although they acknowledged President Duterte has yet to decide on the matter.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said martial law will remain there as long as there is a security threat.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanan noted some members of the Maute Group, which attacked the city on May 23, remain in Marawi despite Duterte's declaration on Tuesday that the area has been freed of "terrorist influence." He also said some Maute members might have slipped out of the city and there are terrorists in Basilan and Sulu.

Andanan also said some Mindanao residents want martial law to remain because it make them feel safe.

President Duterte on Tuesday declared that Marawi had been liberated from terrorist influence which he said signals the start of the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the war-torn city.

Andanan said member agencies of Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) met yesterday afternoon in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to discuss the rehabilitation program.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar, in a statement released by Andanan's office, said 47 sets of heavy equipment arrived from China and these would be used for the recovery phase in Marawi.

Villar said the equipment,

MARTIAL LAW

which are now in Iligan City, were given under China's Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Program. More are expected to arrive soon.

The DPWH, the lead agency for the reconstruction committee of Task Force Bangon Marawi, said six areas of transitory houses in Barangay Sagongsongan have been completed and could accommodate 1,100 families.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said teams have been deployed to Marawi City to conduct damage and needs assessment in affected areas.

The teams, composed of about a hundred personnel, started their work on Monday, said Ricardo Jalad, NDRRMC executive director and concurrent administrator of the Office of Civil Defense.

He said the assessment would "take time, probably weeks," to complete.

He also said there is yet no green light for the return of Marawi residents who evacuated because of the

fighting. The Lanao del Sur provincial government said about 392,000 people have been evacuated.

The Department of Interior and Local Government warned the public against scammers.

DILG officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy said the scammers are soliciting funds for the Marawi rehabilitation efforts using his name, based on reports from regional officers and local government officials who are being asked for cash donations to be sent to money remittance centers.

"It should raise a red flag when the con artists begin to ask for 'your donation' to be sent through a money remittance center or even bank account," Cuy said.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the NBI arrested Karen Aizha Hamidon, 36, on October 11 in her house in Taguig City for inviting foreign Muslims to come to the Philippines to join the Maute fight against government forces in Marawi, through the social media application "Telegram."

Aguirre presented Hamidon to media yesterday.

Agents found she had made 296 posts in chatrooms on Telegram and WhatsApp "calling on Muslims in the Philippines, India and Singapore to come to Marawi to establish a province of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria," Aguirre said.

There were also about 250 names, mostly foreigners, in her phonebook who were suspected of being Islamic State sympathizers.

Aguirre said Hamidon has been charged with 14 counts for violation of Article 138 of the Revised Penal Code (inciting to rebellion or insurrection) in relation to Section 6 of the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

Rebellion charges will also be filed by the NBI against Hamidon for the 296 social media posts supposedly calling on foreign and local Muslims to battle against government forces in Marawi.

Dressed in a black burqa, Hamidon was paraded before the media but was not allowed to speak. Her laptop, mobile phones and electronic gadgets were being looked at by experts for forensic

investigation.

Hamidon, a Muslim convert, was married to Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, alias Tokboy, the former leader of radical group Ansar Al-Khilafa. He was killed in a gunfight with police in January.

Aguirre said she was also linked to Singaporean and Australian extremists, both of whom are in detention in their countries.

But counter-terrorism expert Sidney Jones cast doubts about whether Hamidon had been effective. Jones said her presence in chatrooms of IS supporters was not welcomed, her credibility had been questioned and some participants blamed her for the arrests of radicals.

"Everyone hates her and thinks she's a spy," Jones said.

NBI Director Dante Gierran said Hamidon has been a person of interest since middle of last year when she successfully recruited several Indians to come to the Philippines and join the radical Islamic extremist groups in Mindanao. - *With Gerard Naval, Raymond Africa and Reuters*

19 October 2017

Page. 3

No decision yet on lifting Mindanao ML

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has yet to decide whether to lift martial law in Mindanao even after declaring Marawi City liberated from the Islamic State-linked Maute Group.

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar said that it is now relatively safe to rebuild Marawi.

"Relatively, it's already safe to rebuild Marawi," said Andanar.

Andanar however said it is not certain that martial law will be lifted after the presidential declaration of the city's liberation.

"I wouldn't say that. I would leave that to the President," he said, pointing out there are remaining rebel forces in Basilan and Jolo, Sulu that need to be countered.

Andanar added that the main battlefield in Marawi has decreased in size, from three hectares to two as of October 17.

In the outskirts of the city, rehabilitation and trade could begin, he said.

"Sa outskirts ng Marawi, syempre ang laking lugar n' un eh, ay okay na magsimula 'yung rehabilitasyon at kalakalan," said the PCO chief.

The government will need P150 billion to rebuild Marawi City. The Office of Civil Defense, together with the Department of National Defense (DND), estimated the overall rehabilitation to cost at least P100 billion up to P150 billion.

Andanar said it is up to Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno to source the funds for the immense project, but that an initial P5 billion has already been allocated for use until December this year.

The PCO has received P30 million to establish a Salam television and radio station for the city, he said.

"At least, in terms of communicating the message of government ay magkakaroon po ng sariling TV at istasyon ang siyudad ng Marawi," he said.

Rehabilitation has already started in some parts of the city, he said, citing the building of both temporary and permanent shelters in some barangays around the city.

Marawi City's ground zero has to be cleared entirely, said Andanar.

Andanar said that the 360,000 individuals who had been displaced by the fighting may return home once the area is completely free from explosive devices.

EMontano

19 October 2017

Tribune

Page: 1

UP next, NPA's end by 2018 – AFP chief

By Mario J. Mallari and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

Now that the Marawi City crisis is about over, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will pivot toward New People's Army (NPA)-infested areas mainly in Eastern Mindanao in an effort to end the communist insurgency by next year, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said yesterday.

Año, in a speech at the Eastmincom headquarters in Panacan, Davao City said this new mandate for AFP came from an order of President Duterte who had earlier had pronounced a war against the communist groups.

Año said 8,000 new recruits for the Army will be completed by November this year and majority of them will be deployed in Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom).

"By January, an additional 5,000 troops will be recruited because what we wanted to happen is that

by the end of 2018 there will be no more CPP-NPA in the whole Philippines," he said.

Año added there will be more Army battalions now deployed in the Eastmincom area since most of the places are NPA-infested.

"Now that the Marawi crisis is over, we will redeploy military presence, we will return the troops here (Eastmincom)," he said.

Año said the Philippine Army (PA) will activate additional 10 Infantry Battalions, six of which will be deployed in Eastern Mindanao. **Turn to page 2**

"We'll do that in an effort to end the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA (CPP-NPA) problem," he said.

"And we can start the massive economic development especially in the area of Mindanao," he said.

He said the government will be constructing major highways, bridges and railway stations in different parts in Mindanao which cannot be attained if the peace and order problem persists.

Hapilon planned escape

Año also revealed that Islamic State (IS)-designated Southeast Asian emir Isnilon Hapilon who was killed with top terrorist Omar Maute in an encounter, was about to flee the battle area when he fell to the elite troops of the Army early morning on Monday.

Año said that the terrorist leader and his men were moving toward the pier - apparently to try to escape via the Lanao Lake.

"That was his plan, to leave the main battle area with his remaining men and his family," Año said in a broadcast interview yesterday.

"In fact, he offered millions of pesos to whoever can provide a boat and can guide them out of the main battle area," he added.

Hapilon, however, was killed during an early Monday assault launched by AFP elite troops. Also killed was Omar Maute - the last of the dreaded Maute brothers and leader of the Maute Group.

As of Tuesday night, the military said that a total of 847 terrorists were killed since the siege erupted last May 23. On the other hand, 163 government troops and 47 civilians also perished.

A total of 1,770 civilians have been rescued while 846 firearms, most of them high-powered, have been recovered.

The AFP chief said that rescued hostages led the troops to the exact building where Hapilon and Maute were holed up.

"With the help of the hostages previously rescued, we were able to confirm the exact building where they were hiding...that is where we focused our operations," said Año.

Año cited the Filipino soldiers' commitment to finish off the terrorists and the modern equipment of the military in the successful operation that also led to the rescue of 17 hostages.

He said that while fighting in a heavily built area like Marawi City is new to the troops, they managed to adopt just on time and made some innovations to defeat Hapilon and his group.

The AFP chief particularly mentioned the very good sights of the sniper rifles and the armored vehicles equipped with thermal scanner.

AFP to roundup IS

The AFP will also not relent in hunting down the remaining IS-inspired militants still holed up in Marawi City and to rescue the hostages even after Mr. Duterte declared the liberation of the Islamic City from the

hands of the terrorists last Tuesday.

Año stressed that the only way for the terrorists, who are now focused on their personal survival, to live is to surrender.

He said that the military is still working hard to safely rescue the remaining IS to 20 hostages from the hands of the terrorists, now numbering about 20.

"There are still stragglers left who are now the subjects for manhunt, and there are also hostages we need to rescue. I believe that they (hostages) are somewhere there in the buildings but afraid to go out but I can say that the danger or the risk is not that high," said Año in a broadcast interview.

"These stragglers are on the run for survival but we will not stop until we get all the remaining stragglers," he vowed.

Last Monday, the military killed Hapilon and Maute, leader of the Maute group, in an early morning assault in Marawi City.

More than a dozen hostages were also rescued in the process.

A day after the confirmation of the killing of Hapilon and Maute, Duterte on Tuesday announced the liberation of Marawi City from the terrorists during his seventh visit to the war-torn Islamic City.

However, the military has previously said that about eight "suicidal" foreign terrorists are leading the locals in putting up pockets of resistance in Marawi City.

According to Año, the terrorists are now confined in one-hectare area near a pier adjacent to Lanao Lake.

"There are still buildings and structures, that's why we still need to be careful...it's just a small area, in fact, the manhunt against them could now be considered as law enforcement matter but just the same we will not abandon it," said Año.

"We will make sure that we will get the remaining Maute-ISIS here...the only way to get out alive is to surrender," he added.

The terrorists, Año said, continued to use the hostages as human shield in an effort to evade the advancing troops.

The AFP chief cited the Filipino troops' innovations and ability to adapt to situations in the speedy liberation of Marawi City compared to what happened in Mosul and Raqqa both in Iraq, occupied by ISIS militants for three years.

Raqqa was liberated from ISIS on Tuesday.

"Filipino soldiers adopt quickly and are very good in innovations...very good equipment also contributed a lot, our sniper rifles have great sights and our armored vehicles were huge in sealing routes," said Año.

Aussie, US, China offer aid

Australia, the United States and China have expressed readiness to assist rehabilitation, as they promised support to the Philippine government in defeating what was left of the terror group's ideology in the country.

In an interview released by the Australian government, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the death of declared IS emir in Southeast Asia Isnilon Hapilon and

Omarkhayam Maute, represents "a significant breakthrough".

While there are still others who are fighting for IS in Marawi, Bishop said the two's demise "will take away a great deal of the momentum of the ISIS forces and those who are supporting ISIS."

"The Australian Government, along with other governments including the United States, are determined to support the Philippines Government in defeating ISIS," she assured.

"This is undoubtedly in our national interest because we do not want to see foreign terrorist fighters leaving the Philippines and coming via Indonesia to Australia, and that's why we are working collectively, collaboratively with other nations," she added.

Last Tuesday, Washington also lauded the operations that ended these two-key figures of terrorism in the Philippines.

"The US is proud to support the AFP's counterterrorism efforts in Mindanao through intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, and other technical assistance," said Molly Koscina, press attache for US Embassy in Manila in a text message.

She mentioned that the US-Philippine alliance is built on a 70-year history.

"We will continue working with our Filipino friends, partners and allies to eradicate violent extremism and terrorism. The US Government looks forward to cooperating in assuring the stabilization and rehabilitation of Marawi City," she said.

Similar to Washington's assistance, Australia provided Manila surveillance support through the Australian Defense Force, in addition of their aid and offer to train the military, particularly in urban conflict.

Meanwhile, China Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lu Kang said the Chinese side sincerely hopes that the people in Marawi and the Mindanao region can enjoy peaceful and tranquil life again at an early date.

"China stands ready to continue providing needed support and assistance in light of the needs of the government of the Philippines, including taking an active part in the post-war settlement and reconstruction of Marawi," he said.

Echoing support for the eradication of IS in the Philippines, Lu stressed "combating terrorism is the shared responsibility of all nations."

With more than a thousand of people killed over the five-month long conflict between government forces and extremists in Marawi City, President Duterte on Tuesday, declared that the area is now free from terrorists' influence.

The chief executive himself marked October 17 as the beginning of the city's rehabilitation.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), on the other hand, has yet to release a statement when asked to comment on the three nations' readiness to provide post-war assistance in Mindanao.

19 October 2017



Pahina. 2

HK trip bonus ni Digong sa sumabak na lady soldiers sa Marawi

Bakasyon grande sa Hong Kong ang regalo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga babaeng sundalo na ipinadala sa Marawi City.

Sinabi kahapon ni Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar na muling inulit ng Pangulo ang kanyang pangako na trip to Hong Kong sa mga babaeng sundalo matapos ideklara ang liberasyon ng Marawi noong Martes mula sa mga terorista.

Maaaring magsama ng dalawa ang bawat babaeng sundalo sa kanilang bakasyon sa Hong Kong at sagot din ni Pangulong Duterte ang hotel

accommodation at pang-shopping nila.

Libre naman aniya ang kanilang tiket sa eroplano mula sa Cebu Pacific.

“Pinangakuan iyong mga sundalo na babae ng trip to Hong Kong for three. So iyong eroplano, sagot ng Cebu Pacific. Iyong hotel at saka allowance, sagot ni Presidente. Tapos iyong mga lalake, iba iyong pangako sa kanila,” pahayag ni Andanar.

Ayon sa Kalihim, kailangan din ng mga sundalo ang konting pahinga matapos ang halos limang buwan na pakikipagbakbakan sa Maute-ISIS terror group sa Marawi.

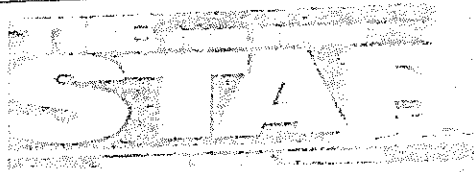
Sinabi ni Andanar na kinikilala ng Pangulo ang

sakripisyo ng mga sundalo para maipagtanggol ang bansa laban sa mga gustong manakop at maghasik ng gulo.

Samantala, para naman sa mga nasugatang sundalo na hindi na maaaring makabalik sa serbisyo dahil sa tinamong pinsala sa pakikipaglaban, sinabi ni Andanar na bibigyan sila ni Pangulong Duterte ng ibang trabaho para may ibang pagkaabalahan.

“Nangako ang Presidente ng trabaho para doon sa mga wounded-in-action na hindi na puwedeng bumalik sa AFP dahil naputulan ng paa at malala na ang sitwasyon,” sabi pa ni Andanar. (Aileen Taliping)

19 October 2017



Page: 15

Hapilon's cousins surrender

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three cousins of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon surrendered in Basilan on Tuesday.

Ben Salina Sapilin, Rami Ben Sapilin, alias Attik, and Muhamad Endeng, alias Aburayhad, also turned over three high-powered firearms, Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan (JTFB) and 104th Army Brigade commander, said yesterday.

Uy said the bandits surrendered to the 74th Infantry Battalion, which is under the operational control of JTFB in Barangay Macalang, a former hotbed of the Abu Sayyaf in Al-Barka town.

The surrender came short-

ly after President Duterte declared Marawi liberated from terrorist forces and that the next targets are Basilan and Sulu.

Uy said the surrenderees admitted that the Abu Sayyaf is losing its enclave in Al-Barka amid sustained military operations.

Since January, at least 32 bandits have surrendered in Sulu, 65 in Basilan, 21 in Tawi-Tawi and three in Zamboanga City. Most of them surrendered after the death of their sub-leaders.

19 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATIONAL LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Lady terror propagandist collared

By JEFFREY G. DAMICOG

The widow of a local radical group's leader has been arrested for spreading terror propaganda and inviting foreign and Filipino fighters to fight for terror groups Maute Group and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) at the height of the Marawi City siege, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II announced on Wednesday.

Karen Aizha Hamidon, the Filipino widow of Ansar Khalifa Philippines (AKP) leader Mohammad Jaafar Maguid alias "Tokboy," was arrested last October 11 at her home in Taguig City by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation-Counter Terrorism Division (NBI-CTD) on the strength of a search warrant. Maguid was killed during a shootout with police in Sarangani last January.

The NBI seized from her mobile phones, tablets, laptops, other electronic devices she allegedly used in posting in social media applications Telegram and WhatsApp her invitations for fighters to go to Marawi City.

The posts read: "The soldiers of Taghut are desperate to defeat the Muhajireen of the Islamic State of Marawi City... but Wallahi they won't be successful. They won't be able to defeat the force of Dawlah because Allah (Azza wa Jaal is on their side). That is why the Dawlah is once again inviting all our ikhwaalnil Muslimeen in all parts of the Philippines and around the world to support our Muhajireen of East Asia. Let us go to Marawi, in Mindanao to join the war ▶5

against the Conquerors of the soldiers of Tawagheet."

Because of these posts, 14 counts of violation of Article 318 (Inciting a Rebellion or Insurrection) of the Revised Penal Code (RPC), as amended, in relation to Section 6 of Republic Act 10175, the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 were filed against Hamidon before the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Apart from these complaints, a separate complaint for rebellion will be filed against her for 296 posts that were found on her mobile phone.

"Although she was not fighting with the ISIS or Maute Group in Marawi, the action of the subject clearly denote that she was in conspiracy with the rebels," said Aguirre, who noted that Hamidon could face 296 counts of rebellion because of her posts.

"So in my opinion she should be charged not only of inciting to rebellion but to the crime of rebellion itself," he stressed.

Meanwhile, Aguirre called on the public to come forward if they have any information about Hamidon that could aid the investigation of her participation in the Marawi rebellion.

The NBI took notice of Hamidon's posts last October 11 which spread to various public groups in Telegram.

When she got arrested, the NBI found she made at least 296 posts.

The AKP, in cooperation with the Maute Group, has been identified as the group behind the Davao City night market bombing in September, 2016, as well as the foiled bombing attempt of the United State embassy in Manila in December, 2016.

The NBI said that Hamidon is the ex-wife of Singaporean Muhammad Shamin Mohammed Sidek who is detained in Singapore for his links with ISIS.

She is also a known associate of Musa Cerantonio, an Australian Islamist preacher who inspired numerous foreigners to join ISIS.

US lauds AFP

Meanwhile, the United States government lauded the Armed Forces of the Philippines for its counterterrorism efforts in Mindanao following the killing of terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute in Marawi City, the other day.

"We are aware of reports that terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute have been killed in Marawi City. The US is proud to support the AFP's counter-terrorism efforts in Mindanao through intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, and other technical assistance," the US embassy said in a statement.

World-class Army that is a source of national pride

email: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

Citing its 70-year alliance with the Philippines, the United States also said they will continue working with "our Filipino friends, partners and allies to eradicate violent extremism and terrorism."

It further said that the US government looks forward to cooperating in assuring the stabilization and rehabilitation of Marawi City.

The US, being the Philippines closest defense ally, has provided assistance in the fight against terrorism in the form of intelligence and information sharing and technical advice.

End of terrorism?

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, on the other hand, expressed confidence that the death of Hapilon and Maute would mark the end of terrorism in the Philippines, especially in Mindanao.

"We have to be vigilant against any future threats to our peace and freedom. The country's unity and the citizens' united front are crucial for peace and order to prevail," Villar said.

Villar issued the statement as she welcomed the news that President Duterte has declared the liberation of Marawi City from "terrorist influence" after five months of having been terrorized by the ISIS-linked Maute Group militants.

"This truly marks the start of the rebuilding of the city and the lives of its residents. I hope the displaced families can return to their homes at the soonest possible time," she said.

"Likewise, I salute the courage and bravery of the Filipino soldiers in seizing control of the stronghold of the terrorists in the city and finally killing the terror group's leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute. The valiant efforts of our troops and the sacrifice of their fallen comrades have not gone in vain," she stressed.

"Together, we also have to do our part in rebuilding what was left of Marawi City and helping our fellow Filipinos who were affected by the conflict, so they can go back to their normal lives," she added. (With reports from Roy C. Mabasa and Mario B. Casayuran)

5295

19 October 2017

MAUTE
Standard

Page. A1

MAUTE RECRUITER FALLS; COPS ON ALERT

By Bill Casas and Sara
Susanne D. Fabunan

THE National Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday announced the arrest of a suspect for spreading radical Islamic extremist propaganda, recruiting foreign fighters to come to the Philippines to sow terror and inciting rebellion through

the use of the internet and social media.

The 36-year-old suspect was identified as Karen Aizha Hamidon, who was arrested in her home in Taguig City by NBI agents on Oct. 11, the bureau's director, Dante A. Gierran, said.

Gierran said Hamidon has been a person of interest to

authorities since she gained international notoriety in the middle of 2016 when she successfully recruited several Indian nationals to come to the Philippines to join radical Islamic extremist groups in Mindanao.

Gierran said Hamidon is the wife of Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, a.k.a. Tokboy a.k.a. Abu

Sharifa, the former leader of the Ansar Khalifa Philippines, a group responsible in the September 2016 Davao City night market bombing in cooperation with the Maute Group, as well as the failed attempt to bomb the US Embassy in Manila in December 2016.

Mohammad Jaafar Maguid was killed by police in January

2017 in Sarangani province.

Gierran said Hamidon is a known associate of Musa Cerantonio, an Australian Islamist preacher who has inspired numerous foreigners to join the Islamic State or ISIS. She is also under investigation by other foreign intelligence agencies for her possible links to

Next page

MAUTE...

From A1

international terrorist financing and her spreading of radical Islamic propaganda, Gierran added.

NBI agents arrested Hamidon on Oct. 11 after she posted a message on several online groups and the social media application Telegram calling on Muslims to come to the Philippines and join the fight against the government forces in Marawi City in order to establish a province of the Is-

lamic State.

Armed with a search warrant, the agents seized her cellphone, laptop, tablet and other electronic devices used in her illegal activities.

A forensic examination of her cellphone showed she posted 296 messages promoting rebellion in Marawi City.

Hamidon was charged before the Justice Department for 14 counts of rebellion or insurrection under the Revised Penal Code, as amended, in relation to the Cyber-crime Prevention Act of 2012.

Rebellion charges will also be filed by the NBI against Hami-

don in relation to her 296 social media posts supposedly calling on foreign and local Muslims to join the fight against government forces in Marawi.

The charges against Hamidon were announced a day after President Rodrigo Duterte declared that Marawi City had been liberated from the terrorists, who overran the city in May.

Duterte had placed the whole of Mindanao under martial law after Maute group-led terror organizations attempted to establish a province of the Islamic State by assaulting Marawi City on May 23.

19 October 2017

Balita

Page. 6

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PANGANGUNGUNANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA 118.00

EDITORIAL

Pinaigting pa ng tropa ang pagtugis sa mga nalalabing terorista sa Marawi

WALANG dudang nagtagal ang bakbakan sa Marawi kumpara sa mga naunang labanan sa Mindanao dahil sinuportahan ito ng mga dayuhang terorista na nagkaloob ng pondo, mga armas at bala, at mismong mga mandingma mula sa Gitnang Silangan at Timog-Silangang Asya.

Inabot na ito ng halos limang buwan, ang rebelyong hayagang inendorso ng Islamic State (IS), na nanawagan sa mga mandirigmang hindi makapupunta sa Iraq na dumiretso na lang sa Pilipinas. Layunin ng IS na magtatag ng regional center sa Timog-Silangang Asya at itinalaga ang tubong Basilan na si Isnilon Hapilon bilang “emir” ng “Philippine province.”

Minsan nang nag-ambisyon ang Islamic State – na kilala rin sa mga katawagang ISIL (Islamic State for Iraq and the Levant), ISIS (Islamic State for Iraq and Syria), at Daesh, na acronym ng Arabic name ng grupo – na magkaroon ng world caliphate. Nahawa nitong makubkob ang malalawak na lugar na silangang Syria at hilagang Iraq, habang girugivagis ang dalawang bansa ng kaguluhang dulot ng mga lokal na rebelde. Naakit nitong maging kasapi ang libu-libong batang Islamic extremist mula sa iba’t ibang parig ng mundo, kabilang ang maraming bansa sa Europa at sa Amerika.

Nakilala ang grupo sa pamumugot sa mga bihag nito, kabilang ang ilang mamamahayag na dinukot nila habang nagbabalita sa Iraq. Sa Pilipinas, ginaya ng Abu Sayyaf ang kalupitang ito, ginamit upang takutin ang mga dayuhang pamahalaan at ang pamilya ng mga bihag rula upang magbayad ng malaking halaga ng ransom.

Gayunman, nagapi ang Islamic State sa pakikipagbakbakan sa puwersa ng mga gobyerno ng Syria at Iraq na suportado ng mga sandatahan mula sa iba’t ibang bansa, kabilang ang Amerika at Russia. Nabawi sa grupo ang mga siyudad na nakubkob nito, kabilang na ang sinaunang lungsod ng Mosul sa hilagang Iraq.

Nitong Lunes, nakasaad sa ulat mula sa Dhuluyah, Iraq, na nangatambak lamang ang bangkay ng mga jihadist sa mga mass grave, kung hindi man pinagpipistahan ng mga asong gala. Ni-recruit sila mula sa iba’t ibang parig ng mundo, nakumbinse sa pangako ng magagandang kapakinabangan sakaling masawi silang martir sa mga labanan.

Mayroon pa ring walo o siyam na dayuhan na natitirang lumalaban para sa Maute Group sa Marawi City, inulat ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) noong nakaraang linggo. “They are the ones who are suicidal,” sabini Gen. Eduardo Año, AFP chief of staff.

Mayo 23 nang sumiklab ang bakbakan sa Marawi nang tinangka ng mga awtoridad na arestuhin si Hapilon, na nagawang makatakas hanggang pangunahan na nga ang rebelyon sa siyudad kasama ang magkakapatid na Maute. Napaulat na napatay si Abdullah Maute noong Agosto, bagamat hindi natagpuan ang kanyang bangkay. Napatay din si Hapilon nitong Lunes, Oktubre 16, kasama si Omarhayam Maute.

Sa mas maigting na pagtugis ng tropa ng gobyerno sa mga nalalabing terorista, marahil maisasakatuparan na ngayon ang deadline na itinakda ng mga military commander, sa pangunguna ni General Año – sa pagtatapos ng buwang ito.

19 October 2017

Pahina. 3

BUSE NG MISA, MATA NG BAYAN

SA wakas, pagkatapos ng limang buwang pakikibaka ng gobyerno at ng buong sambayanan laban sa terorismo sa Lungsod ng Marawi, idineklara na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na malaya na ang lungsod mula sa karahasang kinahaharap ng mga Maranao sa kamay ng teroristang grupong Maute kasunod ng pagkamatay ng dalawang natitirang lider nito na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.

Habang ikinatutuwa ito ng lahat dahil unti-unti nang maibabalik ang kumpiyansa na magiging ligtas na ang lugar ng Marawi at mga kalapit-bayan, mahalaga ring bigyan natin ng maring pansin ang mga lingkod-bayan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na nananatili roon upang ipakita



Saludo ang lahat sa mga sundalo na ipinaglaban ang kalayaan ng Marawi

ang buong katapangan, determinasyon at dedikasyon sa pagprotekta sa mga Maranao at pakikipagiabang sa Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria Terrorist Group.

Karapat-dapat na maibahagi sa ating hukbong sandatahan ang parangal para sa kanilang hindi mapapantayang sakripisyo para makamit ang kapayapaan at katahimikan sa nasabing lugar.

Kung hindi dahil sa kanilang kabayanihan, hindi tayo makararating sa puntong ito.

Sa loob ng 148 araw, mahigit 1,000 katao ang namatay habang 162 sundalo naman ang nagbuwis ng kanilang buhay.

Dalangin natin para sa kanilang mga naiwang pamilya ay kaginhawahan at kagalakan sa puso, dala ng sakripisyo at katapangan ng kanilang mahal na sundalong anak, ama, ina, kapatid o asawa.

Ngayong tapos na ang giyera, mayroon tayong mas malaking responsibilidad na dapat tutukan: Ang rehabilitasyon ng Marawi

Dapat ay pagtulong-tulungan ng lokal at nasyunal na pamahalaan ang pagpapanumbalik ng normal na pamumuhay ng mga taga-Marawi at magiging posible ito kung magkakaroon ng matibay na mekanismo upang masimulan na ang rehabilitasyon.

Gawin nating prayoridad ang pagsasaayos ng mga nasirang imprastruktura, maibalik ang mga bata sa kanilang mga paaralan at gawing sentro ng kalakalan ang nasabing bayan.

Hindi madali ang pinagdaanan ng bawat isa sa krisis na ito, ngunit, kumpiyansa tayong makababangon din tayo basta nagkakaisa.

Naniniwala rin ang inyong lingkod na marami tayong napulot at mapupulot pang aral sa pangyayaring ito — bilang indibidwal, lider at

isang buong bansa.

Kasabay ng ating pakikiisa sa tagumpay na ito ng buong bansa, patuloy pa nating ibibigay at ipakikita ang buong suporta sa ating hukbong sandatahan, lokal na pamahalaan ng Marawi at mga kapatid na Maranao sa mga panahong ito.

Sa lahat ng ating bayaning sundalo at kapulisan, saludo kami sa inyo!

19 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A5

Rebuilding Marawi better

A FEW days ago, I was in Marawi with two of my fellow architects and planners, Lito de Jesus and Mikey Ramos. We were heartbroken over what we saw as the military took us around ground zero. Marawi is a progressive and thriving city with mid-rise buildings, schools, hospitals, business and grand mosques and masjids. Almost everything beyond the bridge, were burned down and destroyed. We were holding back tears as we were told of the significant events. Truly, no one wins in war.

But I believe, despite these challenges the city of Marawi will rise from the ashes and could potentially become a model Islamic city like Dubai. It should be safe, sustainable, smart, walkable, bikeable, inclusive, international, inter-faith, Islamic. Marawi can become the city of peace. It will preserve, show and remind us and the rest of the world what terrorism could do. Terrorism is the selfish act of a few who do not truly care for the community. It has no place in society, especially for a society which is trying to move towards peace. Achieving peace does not mean zero conflict and arguments, but it is committing to reasonable discourse and improvement.

Some months ago, while the siege was still going on, I discussed some recommendations with several cabi-



FELINO A. PALAFOX, JR.

net secretaries, one of them the defense secretary. While everyone is already talking about rebuilding Marawi, I noticed some essential principles of architecture, planning, and development that were missing from the conversation.

First, everyone was talking about building back Marawi. It should be building back Marawi "better." After the bombing of 9/11, I went back to study at the Harvard Graduate School of Design to learn about the importance of security by design. I learned that building high walls do not effectively deter crime; as a matter of fact, it encourages crime. If someone throws a grenade over the wall, no witnesses. If someone puts up a drug den, no witnesses. If an armory and tunnels are being being built, like the case of Marawi, no witnesses. Criminals are not afraid of walls; they are afraid of windows and open spaces because of the possibility of a potential witness. As we were going around ground zero, my colleagues and I noticed how

high the walls of the houses were, especially for some of the homes of the terrorists that we passed. Sniper positions of the enemy were also difficult to suppress because of low urban visibility caused by bad architecture and city planning practices.

Two, the locals should be involved in the planning and development. Those who can immediately help Marawi are the local architecture and engineering students, as well as those who are in other fields or disciplines. It is for the children that we are trying to build a better society and it is with them that we should rebuild the city better. The local citizens should be involved every step of the way and there should be a balance of socially acceptable recommendations and world standard recommendations.

Three, limited rehabilitation of the destroyed parts of the city. Maintain ground zero and build new and expansion cities around it. The schools, hospitals, and places of worship and other institutions should be rebuilt. But a portion of the ruins should be preserved as a reminder of what terrorism can do. It can be designed like Hiroshima and Nagasaki wherein thousands of tourists flock to the site be reminded of the devastating effect of nuclear war. When I was there a few months ago for my birthday, I saw how the tourists felt

engaged with the memorial.

Four, Marawi should not be car-oriented and should strictly impose the building code and aim at higher international standards. When we were going around ground zero, we noticed how small the streets were; before the war the city was already experiencing traffic congestion. We also noticed that some of the houses and establishments were encroaching on the streets and in some areas, the sidewalks had disappeared. There were no proper drainage and sewerage systems in place. Wire and overhead utilities could also be placed underground.

Five, update the comprehensive land use and zoning ordinance of the province as well as the comprehensive development plan. It is through these plans that world-class architecture and planning principles will be institutionalized by drafting local ordinances. It will also serve as the guide and unifier of the vision of the people of the city. Public consultations and participation should be practiced during the re-planning of the city.

Six, develop and update the development plan of the entire province of Lanao del Sur, most especially the cities and municipalities around Lanao Lake, the second largest in the country. The key to sustainable and smarter development is aligning the land use, zoning

and development plans of the adjacent cities and municipalities. Lanao Lake is as beautiful as, and could be more beautiful through environmental enhancement than, Lake Geneva.

Seven, assure people that they will retain the titles to their property regardless of what the zoning ordinances will be. One of the biggest challenges and lessons learned from Yolanda is the difficulty of land management.

Working for Dubai made me realize that religion is not a hindrance in developing cities and nations. When culturally and spiritually diverse countries assimilate into one society, there is economic vibrancy, proliferation of artists, and more appreciation for identity, and respect. We can take inspiration from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Malaysia, and European countries.

After visiting and observing more than 2,000 cities in 74 countries, and being able to work and help 39 countries, I have observed there are only five ingredients of success: strong political will, visionary leadership, good planning, good design, and good governance. With these key ingredients, I believe that there will always be hope to build back better, safer, smarter, and more sustainable cities and communities in the Philippines, especially in Marawi and Lanao.

19 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 44

Editorial

Bittersweet triumph

WITHOUT fanfare, an important victory has come to Marawi after our government fighters killed the leaders of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf militants who attempted to set up an IS caliphate in the city.

The liberation of Marawi is a bittersweet triumph of freedom to be had, and our government troops deserve the nation's gratitude for their bravery, fighting skills, stamina, devotion to duty and sacrifices in being Filipino soldiers.

But how can we, as a nation, celebrate the deaths of 1,057 fellow Filipinos, consisting of 847 Islamist terrorists, 163 security troops and 47 civilians in fierce battles over nearly five months? How do we cheer up the hundreds of thousands of residents of Marawi, including the more than 140,000 who fled at the height of the war and the nearly 80,000 displaced families, the widowed and the orphaned among them, when their city lies in ruin?

Marawi may now begin the process of healing and recovery the only way it can: years of hard toiling to rebuild their lives, yes with government and international financial help, but without the guarantee of a future free of terror.

The heads of the Maute extremists and the Abu Sayyaf Group who led the siege of Marawi in May, Omarkhayam Maute and Isnilon Hapilon, have been killed by government snipers, but the threat of a new leader emerging for the IS-linked group remains.

By Tuesday, news got around that an Islamist financier, Dr. Mahmud Ahmad, was among six to eight foreign terrorists who had escaped, along with 20 to 30 armed elements, as the Philippine security troops cleared the last holdout area in Marawi. The military command has not discounted the possibility that Mahmud could be anointed as the next extremist leader in Marawi.

Apart from the billions of pesos required, President Rodrigo Duterte's urgent concern is the number of injured or heavily wounded soldiers in the war. There is no respite for government forces as continuing operations have a goal of hunting down Mahmud and those who had escaped with him.

For now we can join the voices of the rest of a grateful nation and echo the Palace's commendation of our troops "for their battlefield advances now nearing total victory."

Perhaps beyond our immediate horizon, the Philippines may take comfort and inspiration in knowing that there's a far more significant victory for freedom from terror won in another part of the world around the same time Marawi was liberated from the Maute terror group.

The tide has also turned in favor of freedom for what was considered the global capital of the Islamic State in Syria itself.

On Tuesday, US-backed forces declared victory as they took full control of Raqqa from the Islamic State group, defeating the last jihadist holdouts in the de facto Syrian capital of their now-shattered "caliphate." They raised their flags over the last jihadist footholds after a four-month battle.

In a report by Agence France-Presse, the commander of the Raqqa campaign for the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Rojda Felat, announced the fighting was over and the alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias was clearing the city's stadium of mines and any remaining militants.

With the fall of Raqqa, which will now stand as a symbol of the jihadist movement's collapsing fortunes, the terrorists' fight for their cause will be a much more uphill battle as they start again from square one. They will have to reestablish new base camps or strongholds. Otherwise, the IS fighters would find it nearly impossible to operate, much less draw young recruits to its training camps.

We call on Dr. Mahmud and his fellow militants to take the side of freedom, for Filipinos and other peace-loving citizens of the world.

19 October 2017

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MARILA BULLETIN
THE NATIONAL LEADING NEWSLETTER

Page: 8

Troops closing in on jihadists in Marawi

THE fighting in Marawi may have lasted longer than previous clashes in Mindanao because it was supported by foreign jihadists who brought in funding, arms and ammunition, and actual combatants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

It has now lasted nearly five months, a rebellion openly endorsed by the Islamic State (IS) which called on combatants who could not make it to the fighting in Iraq to go to the Philippines instead. IS wanted to set up a regional center for Southeast Asia and named Basilan native Isnilon Hapilon as "emir" of the "Philippine province."

The Islamic State - known variously as ISIL (Islamic State for Iraq and the Levant), as ISIS (Islamic State for Iraq and Syria, and as Daesh, an acronym for the organization's Arabic name - once nursed ambitions of becoming a world caliphate. It succeeded in taking over wide areas in eastern Syria and northern Iraq, when these two countries were beset by internal troubles. It attracted to its ranks thousands of young Islamic extremists from around the world, including many European countries and the United States.

And it became notorious for its practice of beheading its captives, among them newsmen it had captured in the field in Iraq. In the Philippines, the Abu Sayyaf took to copying this barbarous practice, using it to terrorize foreign governments and fami-

lies of its kidnap victims into paying huge amounts in ransom.

The Islamic State, however, has steadily lost battles against Syrian and Iraqi government forces supported by troops of various nations, including the US and Russia. It steadily lost cities it had earlier conquered, among them the ancient city of Mosul in northern Iraq.

Last Monday, a report from Dhuluiyah, Iraq, told of bodies of jihadists lying in mass graves or at the mercy of wild dogs. These were recruits from all over the world, drawn by the promise of a garden of delights should they die as martyrs in battle.

There are still eight or nine foreigners among the Maute remnants fighting in Marawi City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported last week "They are the ones who are suicidal," said Gen. Eduardo Año, AFP chief of staff.

The fighting in Marawi began on May 23 when troopers sought to arrest Hapilon who managed to elude arrest and went on to lead the rebellion along with the Maute brothers. Abdullah Maute was reported killed in August but no body was ever found. Hapilon was finally killed last Monday, October 16, along with Omarkhayam Maute.

With troops closing in from all sides, the deadline which was set by the military commanders themselves led by General Año - the end of this month -- may finally be met.

19 October 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. AD

Marawi's lessons

PRESIDENT Duterte capped his seventh visit to Marawi City on Tuesday with this good news: "Ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare Marawi City liberated from the terrorist influence that marks the beginning of rehabilitation." The announcement came a day after government troops killed Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, the leaders behind the siege, and rescued 17 hostages. It took five months for our troops to gain victory in the war that claimed the lives of more than a thousand people.

There are still a few terrorists left, and a few more hostages in a contained area that remains a battle zone. However, as Armed Forces chief General Eduardo M. Año said, the small number of the remaining enemy can now be considered a law-enforcement matter and does not constitute serious threat to hinder the succeeding phases of national government programs. Hopefully, the mopping-up operations against the remaining Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria fighters will be finished soon so that the government can start assessing the damage, which will pave the way for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Nobody knows how long it will take to rebuild Marawi, and the wounds of the brutal war may not completely heal. The best we could do is to look at the ruins with a positive view: Take this chance as a great opportunity for the government to develop Marawi into a modern, resilient, sustainable and world-class city.

In a recent interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR, urban planner and architect Felino Palafox Jr. presented a road map in rebuilding Marawi City. He said Marawi can be transformed into a modern city based on the Dubai model. Recalling his experience in Dubai when he was asked by Sultan Khalifa al Habtoor to design a master-planned community from vast desert lands, he said we can do the same in the war-ravaged city. "I think Marawi can be the center of peace and inclusivity in Mindanao—Unity in diversity and interfaith," Palafox said. "We can build a smarter, safer, livable, resilient and walkable city and a modern city that will be inclusive, Islamic, international and interfaith."

his ally and anti-corruption czar, Wang Qishan, to stay in the Standing Committee.

At age 69, Wang has exceeded the age, 68, when an informal party rule says top officials should step down once the next party congress comes around. Keeping Wang on could set a precedent for Xi to buck the same rule at the end of his second term, when he will be 69 himself.

Xi also appears likely to use this congress to mark his place in the party's history by inscribing his ideas, and perhaps even his name, into the party's Constitution, giving his policies a sheen of permanence.

"He's going to get the ideological canonization," said Christopher K. Johnson, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and

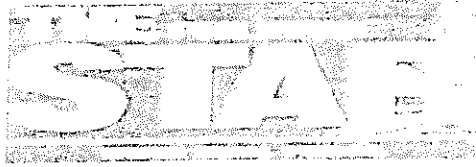
Xi has also called for renewed commitment to what he calls "reform," and did so again in his speech to the congress. But his notion of reform is unlikely to look much like previous bouts of economic liberalization that Deng and other leaders unleashed in the 1980s and 1990s.

Back then, the party gradually embraced market forces, and then full-throated capitalism, pulling back some of its power over many sectors of the economy.

Xi's version of reform is pointed in the opposite direction: to invigorate party control.

"He spent his first five years basically dismantling the old system, which he sees as too lax, too corrupt," said Minxin Pei, a professor at Claremont McKenna College in California who studies

19 October 2017



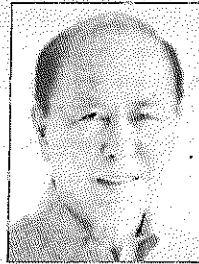
Page: 8

POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Salute to the troops for freeing Marawi!

WESALUTE the armed forces for liberating Marawi City from pro-Islamic State terrorists. We hail the Filipino soldiers' patriotic performance of the job that the Constitution has assigned to them as "the protector of the people and the State." (*Art. II, Sec. 3*)



As the military sweeps the ruins for the squad of stragglers holding hostages to shield their escape, civilian agencies are preparing to start early next year the arduous rebuilding of the proud Muslim city on the northern shore of Lanao Lake.

The government is expected to spend at least P100 billion to bring back Marawi to its former splendor and vivacity. Several countries are chipping in. The United States, whose advanced war gear helped pinpoint and hit the terrorists, is donating an initial \$15 million for rehabilitation.

The displaced residents, thousands of them still in tent colonies, have shown a healthy impatience to rise quickly from the rubble of war and restart their interrupted lives.

We are happy to note in TV reports that special attention is being given to the children and the elderly, but saddened by the death of more than 1,000 Filipinos during the almost five months of intense fighting.

Even with the killing Monday of two of its local leaders, Isrilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Mautè, the IS hierarchy is expected to pick replacements to continue their campaign. Hapilon, wanted by the US, was the IS Southeast Asian "emir." Maute was one of two brothers leading operations.

• Lift martial law in Mindanao now?

WITH the continuing threat and the restiveness of other armed groups, it may be advisable to continue the martial law regime in all of Mindanao until its scheduled lifting at the end of the year - provided no abuses or human rights violations are committed by the authorities.

With the liberation of Marawi (whose IS-inspired siege was the trigger for the ML proclamation) and with the apparent absence of invasion or rebellion (the crisis situations required by the Constitution), it may be legally untenable to refuse to lift martial law now.

But as has been amply demonstrated, when Duterte forcefully insists on his wishes, there is hardly a way that any entity can stop him - unless the parties questioning his moves are ready to risk a constitutional crisis or a bloody civil strife.

By continually pushing the borders of his autocratic tendencies, Duterte has succeeded in conditioning the public mind to the inevitability (not necessarily the desirability) of his leading the nation to embrace a revolutionary regime or any of its variations. 106

Despite its setback in Marawi, meanwhile, the IS and its satellites in Mindanao might still launch terror events in urban centers, including the national capital, if only to serve notice that while two of their top leaders have been neutralized, they are still a force to contend with.

They may attempt to dramatize this capability by carrying out a major attack while some world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, are in town for side-summit talks with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gathering in Manila late this year.

Such violence erupting in Marula with the world watching could boost Duterte's argument for a strongman (himself) to throw out constitutional niceties – and take full control of the government – to save the nation.

• **CBCP victimized by 'fake news'**

WHILE the fighting in Marawi was winding down, partisan bloggers have been busy adding to the noise and confusion complicating the conflict by propagating "fake news" about targeted individuals and groups they see on the "enemy" side.

One fake news was posted days ago by a "Rodrigo Duterte Supporters" saying that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines regretted the killing of Hapilon and Maute. Passed on, shared or retweeted by allies of "Rodrigo Duterte Supporters," it went viral on social media.

The fake report forced normally quiet Archbishop Socrates B. Villegas, CBCP president, to issue a statement:

"Once more, CBCP is the hapless victim of fake news. Going viral on social media is a 'report' that the CBCP regrets the killing of Messrs. Hapilon and Maute.

"The CBCP never made such a statement. On the contrary we laud the gallantry of our soldiers and their heroic effort to free Marawi. We will gladly join government in rebuilding the city in the measure we are able.

"We pray for all the dead, and for lasting peace in Mindanao."

The deliberate propagation of false reports – now the land mines in social media – is substantially different from the occasional errors in new reports and articles in mainstream media.

In the fake report on the CBCP, for instance, the story was maliciously spread with the full knowledge of its falsity. In the mainstream press, errors committed by writers and editors are promptly corrected or withdrawn upon discovery.

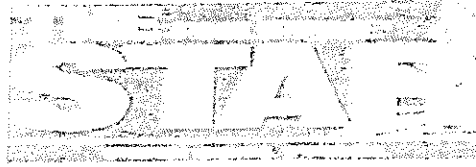
One element giving courage and cover to purveyors of fake news in social media is the anonymity of their cryptic usernames. The author and his handler are emboldened by the thought that they cannot be identified and made to account quickly during their demolition job.

Such is not the case with mainstream media where authors carry by-lines and sometimes even have their pictures displayed. They take responsibility for what they write or say. What's more, their news organizations stand by them, and fully own their lapses and errors.

Anyone with a cellphone or such device can instantly upload or post any thought, comment or report without sufficient reflection or fact-checking. The lack of verification, editing, supervision and a sense of responsibility contribute to misinformation or outright disinformation.

The gatekeeping and the public taking of responsibility by mainstream media do not always save from errors the news bureau and the public it serves, but there is always accountability – the element that protects both the journalist and his reader from fake news.

19 October 2017



Page: 8

No spillover

EDITORIAL

There would "never, never" be a repeat of the terrorist siege that destroyed the city of Marawi, President Duterte has vowed. The commitment is welcome as city residents pick up the pieces of their old life and the arduous task of rebuilding starts.

Besides preventing a repeat of the five-month siege, government forces now face the challenge of stopping the terrorism from spilling over into other parts of Mindanao and the rest of the country. With the deaths of Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute, officials in Metro Manila are on alert for possible terrorist violence.

Last week, the National Bureau of Investigation arrested a woman for using online messaging services to encourage Muslims in the country and overseas to join the Maute forces in Marawi. Karen Aizha Hamidon, 36, was arrested on Oct. 11 at her condominium unit in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

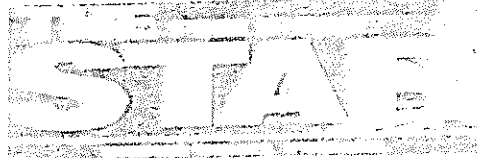
Hamidon is accused of using social media to recruit fighters from around the world to join the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, carrying on the work of her first husband, a Singaporean security guard named Muhammad Shamin Mohamed

Sidek. Singapore detained Sidek in August 2015 for inciting violence and planning to join ISIS. Hamidon's second husband was Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, the Filipino leader of the ISIS-inspired Ansar al-Khalifah who was killed by police last January.

Although Hamidon has also been accused in ISIS-inspired chat groups of being a spy, her arrest, announced yesterday, raises concerns about terrorist activities outside Marawi including Metro Manila. Al-Qaeda-linked groups such as Southeast Asian terror cell Jemaah Islamiyah or JI have been active in the Philippines even before minions of Osama bin Laden launched the horrific attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001.

Since 2000, Hundreds of Filipinos have been killed in terrorist attacks from Mindanao to Metro Manila attributed to JI, the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Bombs have been set off in parks and markets, at an airport and a wharf, on buses and a ferry as well as a coach of the Light Rail Transit. The Mautes have been decapitated and severely weakened in Marawi. Now security forces must see to it that the group will stay weak.

19 October 2017



Page: 8

FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

Quashed

The crisis in Marawi is ending exactly as we wanted it to: decisively.

The ringleaders of the terrorist group responsible for this audacious attempt to occupy a city are dead. The small army of militants that followed their leaders into this murderous misadventure has been almost wiped out.



Less than two hectares of the city center remains to be cleared. Should the remnants of the Maute group choose to fight instead of surrender, the body count will continue to grow over the next few days.

The death toll for the militants who invaded Marawi should move closer to 900. That is nearly the entire terrorist army assembled to occupy the devastated city. Such a force cannot be assembled in a long while. The other cities of Mindanao can sleep a little easier.

Puny attempts to reinforce the beleaguered terrorist force in the city were intercepted and destroyed by the AFP. The security ring thrown around the main battle area was so redundant escape was not possible.

Isnilon Hapilon was killed trying to escape the encirclement. He was detected through the use of modern thermal imaging equipment lent us by our allies. AFP snipers took down the notorious terrorist leader.

Cowards that they were, both Hapilon and Omar Maute tried to use hostages as human shields. That did not save them from the sharpshooters.

This was not an easy victory for the AFP. Over 160 soldiers and policemen paid with their lives to accomplish the mission. Over a thousand were injured. But troop morale never flagged. These are heroes who never wavered in defense of the Republic.

Nor will reconstruction be easy.

One eminent urban planner estimates it might take 50 years to rebuild the devastated city. The estimated P50 billion required for the task turns out to be an underestimate. It will take hundreds of billions to rebuild Marawi and restore its once vibrant economy. The tolls for this calamity will be inherited by the next generation.

The slew of sympathetic statements toward Marawi notwithstanding, the fact is the cost of rebuilding is too large and the city's contribution to the economy is too small by comparison. A cash-strapped government cannot go full-throttle into reconstruction.

Army VII

Our security forces come out of this battle with many lessons learned. The most important of these lessons is the need to build capacity for urban warfare.

more pride

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PJE

For over a century, our security forces trained for jungle warfare. Our elite military units are among the best in the world in this regard. These units are well equipped as well to do battle well away from the population centers.

ic. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Things have changed in this age of terrorism. The battle for Marawi was prolonged not only because priority was given to saving the hostages. It was extended also because our troops had neither the training nor the modern equipment to properly conduct urban warfare.

We waged this battle with borrowed thermal imaging and other surveillance equipment. We do not have the smart bomb capability required to hit targets precisely using smaller ordnance. We need better capabilities to plant bugs in the battle area as well as to use armed drones in crowded urban space.

The technologies for urban warfare get better every-day. We need to keep pace.

Surely we will do retraining of special units. The expensive technologies for urban warfare might take a little more time.

Arrest them

We have rules governing the public transport sector. The first time a group of jeepney drivers called for a strike, the official response in enforcing the rules was long in coming.

Because of that, the group Piston found it convenient to call for yet another strike at the start of this week. In order to minimize the inconvenience that the strike might bring to the public, government found it necessary to suspend schools and work in the public sector. Even our stock exchange was shut down.

The Piston strike was more bark than bite. No real disruption of public transport happened. But the suspension of classes and work cost the country countless billions in lost productivity.

This time the LTFRB should enforce the rules. The ringleaders of this transport strike should be arrested and charged. This should send a clear message. No band of drivers should be allowed to hold our economy hostage to the political games their radical leaders choose to play.

The arrogant leaders of Piston are now warning they will continue with their failed strike calls every month until President Duterte sits down with them (and, of course, agree with their twisted position). For making that threat, they should be jailed twice over.

There have been numerous public consultations regarding the proposed modernization of the jeepneys. The militant drivers did not attend any of them, smugly insisting on rejection of any change in an obviously retrograde transport system.

The media space is wide open for them to make their bankrupt arguments known. Instead, they chose to use strikes as a weapon. They prefer to use force instead of reason. Nothing fundamentally differentiates them from the terrorists who tried to take Marawi.

These pig-headed drivers' groups must be made to pay for flouting the law and sabotaging the economy. Their actions simply add to the reasons the obsolete jeepney system be scuttled.

Not only are the jeepneys technologically unfit as a form of public transport, the quaint "boundary system" is oppressive, irresponsible and conducive to the bad road behavior we associate with jeepney drivers. That should end now.

(02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLI

Art

e land.

19 October 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A13

Did Maute and Hapilon die 'shaheed'?

When the news broke that jihadist leaders Omarkhayyam Maute and Isnilon Hapilon had been killed in Marawi, I was asked if they died *shaheed* (martyrs). My reflex was to answer in the negative based on my fundamental knowledge of Islam and in the light of the rape and pillage of the city.

Muslim religious leaders are divided on the issue of the martyrdom of jihadists. This issue is important because if it is established that jihadists died martyrs, then they are compensated with a place in *jannah* or paradise—a siren song used to lure gullible young recruits (on top of promised monetary compensation) to the cause. If they did not, their place is *jahannam* or hell.

The divergent opinions reflect the divide between moderate and radical Islam. Both sides invoke verses of the Holy Quran and Hadith al-Sharif (the sayings of Prophet Mohamad, PBUH, or a report of what He did) to support their respective arguments. The prevailing view is that one can die a martyr only if one engaged in a "defensive war" and did it "for the sake of Allah, SWT." Meaning, if one attacked an Islamic city like Marawi, whose residents have done nothing wrong to one or to the cause one was fighting for, then one was not engaged in such a war but in murder and plunder, which are *haram* or taboo in the highest degree.

Disciples of the radical Wahhabi-Saafi

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

Islam, upon which the Islamic State is founded, will claim that Maute and Hapilon are *shaheed*, having met death while fighting for Islam. From the other side of the religious spectrum, moderate Islam argues that the Islam they died fighting for is fake and deviant from the true teaching of Din ul Islam. To the residents of Marawi, the jihadists had motives other than Islam, like politics, looting and establishing a *wilayat* (province) of the now-crumbling vision of self-proclaimed caliph Abobakar al-Baghdadi. And by fighting a losing battle, they courted suicide—an act considered a mortal sin in Islam. The Quran says: "...And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another)...—Surah An-Nisa 4:29. The Wahhabi-Salafists are an insignificant minority in the Islam world, but devilishly belligerent in spreading their cause.

With the death of Maute and Hapilon, it is almost certain call for the valiant soldiers who fought them and their men for almost five months. According to the military, it's only a matter of time before the liberation of Marawi is completed (it has avoided setting a deadline after sounding like a broken record and losing face). This is a great blow to the dream of the

Islamic State for a world caliphate, after its resounding defeat in Raqqa and Mosul. Recall that at the height of the protracted battle in Marawi, beamed live to the world through TV and the internet, the jihadists were marketing the Philippines as the Islamic State of East Asia. The bravery of the local jihadists fighting the might of the government supported by world powers like the United States and Australia caught the attention of the world.

There is unanimity in the idea that the liberation of Marawi will not put out the flame of faith-based extremism in Mindanao. In fact, there is a well-grounded fear that the war has engendered another breed of radicals who will be more ferocious and unforgiving after seeing and feeling the agony and pillage of their place. This is the challenge that the government faces now.

The adage "There are no victors in war" rings ever true, but there are definitely losers in the war in Marawi: the residents of the city who have suffered the brunt of the destruction, with many of them with no place to return to and staring at a bleak uncertain future for themselves and their children.

Macabangkit B. Lanto (amb_mac_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was a Fulbright fellow in New York University for his postgraduate studies. He has served the government as congressman, ambassador, and undersecretary, among other positions.

19 October 2017



Page: A14

DEATHS OF TERRORISTS

The recent deaths of Omarkhayyam Maute and Isnilon Hapilon are considered by many as symbolic of the beginning of the end of the Marawi crisis since these two are the key leaders of the siege. But to me, there are more things this recent development show and represent.

First, the death, or as military jargon calls it, “neutralization” of Maute and Hapilon amid the war in Marawi is clear proof that success can be achieved fully when the three branches of our government work together despite separation of powers. We may recall—notwithstanding the opposition of some lawmakers, politicians, and civil society organizations on President Duterte’s proclamation of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao—we saw how the legislature and judiciary looked beyond the situation in order to allow our Chief Executive to exercise one of his constitutionally enshrined powers to address the crisis.

Second, these deaths only show how unified effort, maximization of resources, endurance, and dedication can be greater than advanced weaponry. Sadly, our military has been touted by many, especially foreign defense analysts, as among the

“worst” in the world. Despite the observation (which later turned out as a criticism) that the Maute group has better weapons than our government forces, the military optimized the use of its available resources—especially those given by our foreign allies—in order to intensify its operations to finally put an end to this five-month long strife.

Finally, if there’s one thing that these terrorists’ deaths imply, it would most likely be the call for a more unified Filipino nation. The Maute group’s terrorism in Marawi is more than just violence and destruction. It is an assault to our inherent human right to a peaceful and secured country. As the Marawi crisis approaches its end, let us all be reminded and learn that terrorism is not just the government’s business—it’s our business, too. And that no matter how we modernize our military or pass measures that will prevent the influx of terrorists in our country, if we would also do our part, even the most sophisticated antiterrorism framework shall falter and fall.

Indeed, the deaths of Omarkhayyam Maute and Isnilon Hapilon should be our first and last wake-up call.

CHARITA R. TINGGA
crrtingga@outlook.com

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

ONLINE NEWS

19 OCTOBER 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

STATEMENT | Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo on retaliatory attacks

AWP SAGUANG

"We will not be surprised. This is something we all expect. If terrorists retaliate even with minor setbacks in their evil designs, how much more with this severe blow where Hapilon and Omar were neutralized? But we are ready. Just as we are busy enlisting the help, capacitating, preparing local governments and their residents. The possibility of sympathy attacks showed not cow us. They should instead embolden us frustrate terrorist attempts to disrupt our normal lives."

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

www.dwdd.com.ph

STATEMENT | Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo on Marawi Liberation

Avur Santiago

"Marawi has been liberated. We have strategically and tactically defeated Daesh-inspired Maute Group. With the neutralization of Hapilon and Omar, we have reduced them to a mere police concern. While there may still be remaining fighters, they are stragglers— leaderless and in disarray. We have significantly degraded their tactical capability and under no circumstance will they be able to reverse the situations that have rendered them defeated. However, by declaring Marawi liberated today, we do not mean a complete halt in the operations. The sporadic firefight will stop only when we have rescued the remaining hostages and we have neutralized the remaining terrorists.

As of the latest:

Enemies neutralized – 870

Firearms Recovered – 855

Civilians killed – 47

Civilian Rescued – 1,789

Buildings Cleared – 9

Unexploded Ordnance – 29

Improvised Explosive Devices recovered – 21

Government Forces Killed-in-Action – 163

www.dwdd.com.ph

SELFLESS SERVICE | Naval Forces Western Mindanao @ 21

Army Sarrado

BAGONG CALARIAN, Zamboanga City (DWDD) – Naval Forces Western Mindanao celebrated its 21st

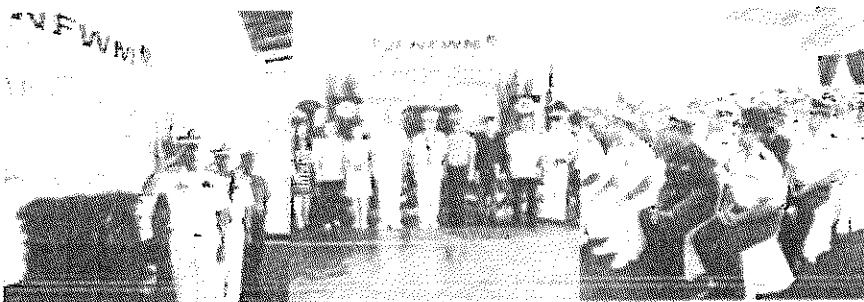
Founding Anniversary last October 13, 2017 with the theme “NFWM: 21 Years of Selfless Service Towards a Prosperous and Secure Western Mindanao” graced by the Flag Officer In Command, Philippine Navy, Vice Adm. Ronald Joseph S Mercado AFP as the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The highlight of the event was the awarding of the officers, enlisted personnel, civilian employees, OpCon Units and NFWM partner stakeholders who rendered meritorious services and greatly contributed to the mission accomplishment of the command for the past year.

The Flag Officer In Command said on his anniversary message, “A lot of challenges may have crossed our path this past year but I am proud to say that NFWM never faltered or ceased to deliver desired results and render only the highest standard and most honorable service to our maritime nation.”

Furthermore, the Commander Naval Forces Western Mindanao reiterates that, “No mission will ever be successful, no undertaking a success, if there are only few people dealing with it. It is imperative that we work as a team, and always put our best foot forward in carrying out our tasks.”

Indeed, the NFWM Officers, Enlisted personnel, civilian employees and OpCon units had lived up with its theme and have made the Philippine Navy a strong and credible organization. NFWM/NPAO/MCAG



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