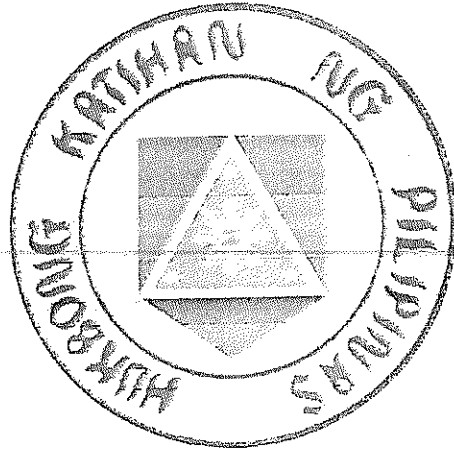


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 October 2017

Wednesday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

25 OCTOBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A14
HEADLINE NEWS			
2	Nokor nuke threat imminent – Japan	Reuters	PDI p.A1
3-5	'Terror threat remains'	Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.1
6	Life begins returning to war-torn Marawi	AFP	Phil Star p.1
7-8	Defense chiefs back freedom of navigation in SCS	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
9	3 Army generals step up fight vs religious extremism	Julmunir Jannaral	Mia Times p.A7
10	Negros awaits troops' return	Eugene Adiong	Mia Times p.A7
11	Soldier from Marawi gunned down	Roel PAreño	Phil Star p.16
12	2 soldiers hurt in NPA combat	Danny Estacio	Mia Bulletin p.8
13	Abu Sayyaf beheads ex-barangay chief	-	Mia Bulletin p.13
14	Army Corporal tinadtad ng bala	Joy Cantos	PM p.2
15	Photo	Ernie Penaredondo	Phil Star p.10
AFP RELATED NEWS			
16-17	IS spreads influence to remote villages	New YorkTimes	PDI p.A1
18	Año : IS sent \$1.5M to fund Marawi siege	AP	PDI p.A6
19	NHA: Law needed to redistribute idle gov't houses	Jaymee Gamil	PDI pA16
20	Envoy says US played key role in Marawi success	Reuters	PDI p.A6
21	Australian forces to train Filipino troops in urban warfare	AFP and AP	PDI p.A10
22	Marawi siege has ended but not is militancy	The Star of Malayasia	PDI pA10
23	Rebuilding Marawi a daunting task	Divina Suson	PDI p.A15
24	Alleged Maute financier nabbed in Valenzuela	Emannuel Tupas	Phil Star p.15
25	2 Maute financiers arrested	Raymond Africa	Malaya p.B1
26-27	Marawi mayor asks for initial P92-B Rehab fund	Evelyn Macairan	Phil Star p.14
28-29	Aussie troops to train Phi counterparts in urban warfare	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.14
30	Australia to train Pinoy soldiers on urban warfare	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
31	US touts military ties in PH as Duterte courts Russia, China	Reuters	Malaya p.B6
32	Intel appreciation could have shortened Marawi war – Año	PNA	Mia Bulletin p.1

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

33-34	Marawi situation starts to normalize	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
35	New Air Force chief vows 'top speed' in achieving goals	Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B1
36	Soldiers, policemen receive awards for role in Marawi	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.6
37	Terror, insurgency threats remain, Duterte warns	Catherin Valente	Mla Times p.A2
38	Soldiers, lawmen cited for gallantry	Julmunir Jannaral	Mla Times p.A7
39-40	Aussies, Chinese first responders after IS defeat	Mario Mallari	Daily Tribune p.1
41	Davao peace panel to tap 3 NPA commanders in talks	Yas Ocampo	Mla Bulletin p.13
42	Ex-Soldier held for beating up mother	Emmanuel Tupas	Phil Star p15
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
43-44	Heroes, heels	Ana Pamintuan	Phil Star p.14
45-46	Marawi City reconstruction is a national imperative	Marlen Ronquillo	Mla Times p.A14
47	A national 'Brigada' for Marawi's schools	-	Mla Bulletin p.10
48	Honor, salute and gratitude!!	Elvie Estavillo	Phil Star p.13
49	Mga sumuporta sa terorista, oras ng pangalanan!	Korina Sanchez	Bulgar p.3
ONLINE NEWS			
50	Lorenzana turns over ADMM chairmanship to Singapore	Christopher Caliwan	www.pna.gov.ph
51	China guarantees PH partnership on Marawi rehab	Joyce Ann Rocamora	www.pna.gov.ph
52-53	Australia to provide urban warfare training to PH troops	Christopher Caliwan	www.pna.gov.ph
54	Kintanar assumes top PAF post Tuesday Prelate expresses mixed emotions on end of Marawi siege	Priam Nepomuceno Ferdinand Patinio	www.pna.gov.ph
55	Intel appreciation could have cut short Marawi campaign: Año Maute defeat in Marawi a warning to terror groups: AFP	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

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

25 October 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A14



PANAHON TV



www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

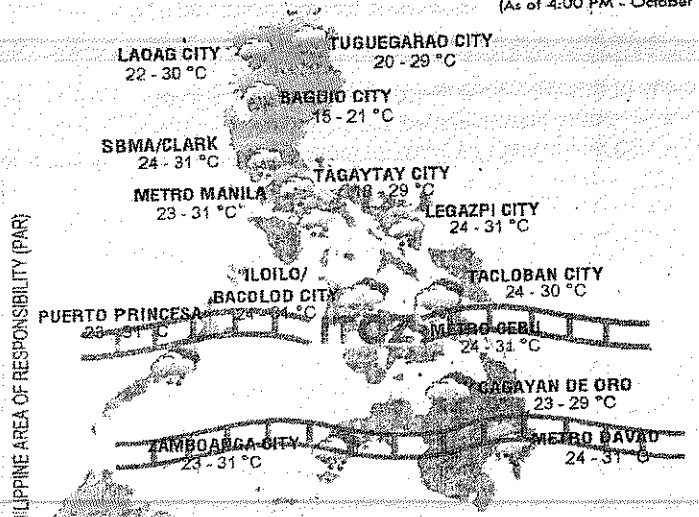









PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS































TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 25, 2017 | WEDNESDAY


INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING PALAWAN, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(As of 4:00 PM - October 24, 2017)



LEADER SPA


SUNRISE	SUNSET
 5:49 AM	 5:31 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
 10:07 AM	 9:46 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
OCT 20 3:12 AM	OCT 28 6:22 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
8:26 AM 0.06 Meter	12:10 AM 1.04 Meter
 Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

	OCT 26	OCT 27	OCT 26	OCT 27	OCT 26	OCT 27		
METRO MANILA	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY	 19 - 29 °C	 19 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	 24 - 31 °C	 24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 21 - 30 °C	 23 - 32 °C	LEGAZPI	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 24 - 31 °C	 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	 23 - 31 °C	 23 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 23 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	 15 - 22 °C	 16 - 23 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	 24 - 31 °C	 24 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C	 		



DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM



PILIPINAS HD

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

25 October 2017

TRUMP
INSIDER

Page: A1

Nokor nuke threat imminent—Japan

CLARK FREEPORT—The threat from North Korea has grown to a “critical and imminent level” and the United States, Japan and South Korea must deal with the matter, Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told his US and South Korean counterparts in talks on Monday.

Onodera’s remarks underscored the deep concern in Tokyo after North Korean weapons tests, including test-firing missiles over Japan, as Pyongyang seeks to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States.

His comments broke from more measured language on Monday by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo, as the three men

tis said they discussed “maintaining stability and peace in support of the diplomats.”

Carter initiative

Former US President Jimmy Carter said he was willing to travel to North Korea on behalf of the Trump administration to help defuse the situation, according to The New York Times.

Mattis has been more cautious in his public remarks than US President Donald Trump, who has been locked in a war of words with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, threatening to destroy North Korea if necessary to defend the United States and its allies.

Kim has blasted Trump as “mentally deranged.”

Trump’s recent remark that “only one thing will work” with North Korea fueled concerns of a potential conflict.

But even some White House

met on the sidelines of the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Defense Ministers’ Meeting here.

Calibrated response

“[The] threat posed by North Korea has grown to the unprecedented, critical and imminent level. Therefore, we have to take calibrated and different responses to meet with that level of threat,” Onodera said, speaking through an interpreter, at the start of security talks.

South Korea’s Song, also acknowledged that “North Korea’s provocative behavior is becoming worse and worse,” in public remarks before reporters were escorted out of the meeting room.

Mattis renewed sharp criticism of North Korea’s tests, saying they “threaten regional and global security.”

Mattis, who kicked off a

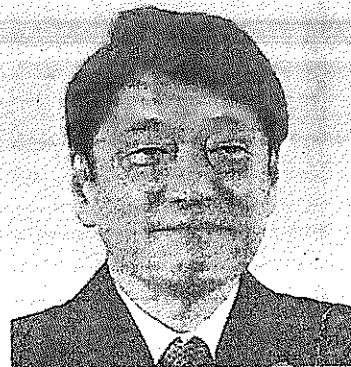
advisers say US military options are limited when Pyongyang could launch an artillery barrage on the South Korean capital, Seoul, only around 50 kilometers from the heavily fortified border and home to 10 million people.

Mattis’ trip, which will include a stop in Thailand, comes before Trump’s first visit to Asia next month, including a stop in China.

‘Grave concern’

Mattis and his Asian counterparts vowed to step up diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang while enhancing military cooperation.

In a joint statement, Asean defense ministers expressed “grave concern” over North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs and urged the reclusive country to meet its international obligations and resume com-



Itsunori Onodera—AP

weeklong trip to the region on Monday, has been eager to emphasize diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully as escalating tension between Washington and Pyongyang stoked fears of “armed confrontation.”

Asked about his conversation with Onodera after the two met earlier in the day before joining South Korea’s Song, Mat-

munications.

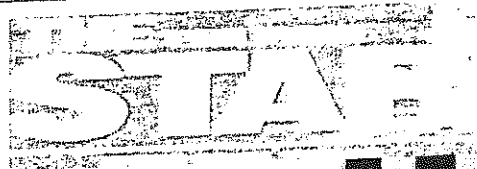
They underscored the “need to maintain peace and stability in the region” and called “for the exercise of self-restraint and the resumption of dialogue to deescalate tensions [on] the Korean Peninsula.”

The Pentagon said Mattis and his Asean counterparts also discussed “the need to increase cooperation on countering violent extremism to stem the threat posed from groups” such as the Islamic State (IS) group and “the threat posed by returning foreign fighters.”

A five-month battle against IS supporters in Marawi City that claimed more than 1,000 lives ended following a final confrontation between govern-

AND AFP

26 October 2017



Page: 1

'Terror threat remains'

Gov't monitoring IS activities

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Despite the end of the Marawi siege, threats of terrorism in the Philippines remain, according to President Duterte, as he called on security forces yesterday to remain loyal to the Constitution while enforcing martial law in Mindanao and to foster global cooperation against extremism.

For Duterte, the soldiers who fought the jihadists in the southern Islamic City have made the country safer, but he warned that terrorism and insurgency continue to pose threats to public safety.

"We have made significant headway in ridding the country of the scourges of criminality, insurgency, terrorism and corruption because of your invaluable contributions and there could never be a task more ennobling than that," Duterte said during the Air Force change of command ceremony in Clark, Pampanga.

"I enjoin our troops to continue performing their duties well, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao,

and there are persisting threats of terrorism and insurgency," he said.

"While we have defeated the Maute group here, it cannot be denied that the (Islamic State) remains a global threat," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said, agreeing with Duterte.

"It is therefore necessary for us to continue our cooperation and alliance with our friends in the international community to halt the spread of the IS menace," Abella added.

Islamic State (IS)-linked terrorists from the Maute group occupied Marawi last May 23, prompting Duterte to impose martial law in Mindanao.

Turn to Page 10

3

More than 800 militants, 160 government troopers and 40 civilians died during the five-month siege - the longest armed conflict in the Philippines since World War II.

The crisis also displaced about 360,000 individuals or 72,000 families.

Last week, terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute were killed in an early morning clash, prompting Duterte to declare Marawi liberated from terrorist influence.

Security forces ended their offensives this week and started pulling out troops from the main battle area.

Duterte heaped praises on the soldiers who died in Marawi and vowed to take care of their families.

"We recognize the valor and the sacrifices of the (Philippine Air Force) personnel who were killed and wounded in action, particularly the casualties caused by the conflict in Marawi City. Rest assured that the Philippines is committed to promote the welfare of all PAF personnel and their loved ones," the Chief Executive said.

"That you have left your families and the comfort of your homes to serve the country is truly praiseworthy. Indeed, the Philippines and our people are indebted to you because of the sacrifices you have made every single day. Truly, you have made our country safer and more secure," he added.

Malacañang also thanked United States Defense Secretary Jim Mattis for recognizing the efforts of Philippine troops to end the Marawi siege.

"The government is grateful to the US government for helping us defeat the ambition of the IS-affiliated group to establish a caliphate in our country," Abella said.

The US provided the Phil-
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

ippines technical expertise and equipment to strengthen the government forces' campaign against the Maute group.

Retired PAF chief lauded

Duterte also commended former PAF chief Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, who bowed out of the service yesterday. Fallorina was replaced by Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr., former chief of the Palawan-based Western Command and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985.

"I am confident that the PAF is in good order, with the several improvements initiated by Lt. Gen. Fallorina and the upgrades made under his administration," the President said.

Duterte said Fallorina supported internal security operations and provided air assets during offensives against terrorists.

Not all air raids under Fallorina's watch, however, were successful. A total of 12 soldiers were killed and 18 others were injured in two bungled air strikes in Marawi.

The PAF deployed more than 400 personnel to support the ground troops during the siege.

"I assure you that the PAF has the government's full support as you perform your mandate as an organization. In fact, two C130s and 12 FA-50 aircrafts have been added to the PAF since July of last year," Duterte said.

Highest alert

The military and the police would be placed on highest alert to ensure the safety of participants of the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

"It will be highest alert. Red alert, as far as I know,

Serving the people. Securing the land.

isters of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia met after the Marawi crisis broke out to discuss anti-terror strategies.

"They expressed their own concerns about some of these jihadists being nationals of their own respective countries, both from Malaysia and Indonesia... But that's something really beyond their control," Paynor said.

"So, the three countries are together sharing information so that movements of these people can be known to all the others (and) we can be proactive in terms of preventing a similar occurrence," he added.

Navy pulls out elite forces

The Philippine Navy elite Seals and Marine reconnais-

sance force and other component units that saw action in defeating the IS-affiliated Maute group have pulled out of Marawi City, according to Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command (NFWM) commander Rear Admiral Rene Medina.

Medina will send off today the Navy Seals, Marines and sailors from Iligan City back to Manila.

He said the *BRP Tarlac*, one of the newest navy landing dock and multi-purpose operational ships, will ferry back the navy's fighting elite and sailors today following an honor and sendoff ceremony.

The Seals, Marines and sailors at the height of the five-month hostility in Marawi prevented the pro-IS

terrorists from either escaping or reinforcing the main battle area through Lake Lanao.

The Marines also seized from the Maute's control several bridges leading to the main battle area.

The naval unit rescued several of the hostages who escaped through the lake.

"These dedicated sailors and Marines have shown selfless acts and patriotism in liberating Marawi City from the terrorists' occupation," Medina said.

A mass was offered for troopers of the 55th Special Action Company of the 5th Special Action Force Battalion as they arrived yesterday at their base here following the joint mission with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Marawi.

IS terrorists being monitored

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday bared that the Philippine embassy in Baghdad has furnished the defense and military establishments with names of Islamic militants from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines who have fought alongside the IS terrorists for close monitoring.

Lorenzana said these information, along with that provided by the US and Australian governments, are valuable to the ongoing anti-terrorism operations of the country's government security forces.

"Even before the Marawi siege, we have been trying to coordinate with neighboring countries because early on, we know there were (Asian) fighters fighting in the Middle East," Lorenzana said.

With the defeat of the IS in the Middle East, monitoring has been heightened for the possible return of these fighters to their respective countries, including the Philippines.

- With Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

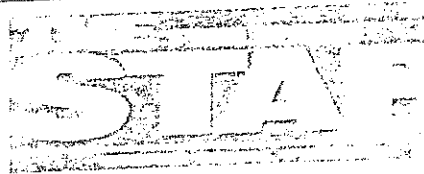
is the highest. But even with just red alert, it will be even higher than that," ASEAN 2017 National Organizing Committee director-general for operations Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr. said.

"All of the security elements within the areas of where the leaders are will be on full security alert. However, the whole country will also be on alert because we would not want anything happening anywhere in the Philippines during those days," he added.

Paynor said Southeast Asian countries are working together to counter the threat posed by terrorism.

He noted that foreign min-

25 October 2017



Page: 1

Life begins returning to war-torn Marawi

MARAWI - Residents of Marawi where Islamic State (IS) supporters waged a brutal five-month battle began returning home yesterday, but gunfire greeted them as soldiers scoured devastated neighborhoods for remaining militants.

Defense chiefs announced on Monday that the fighting, which claimed more than 1,100 lives and left the eastern half of Marawi in ruins, had ended following a final clash in a mosque in which dozens of gunmen were killed.

The militants had occupied Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 in what President Duterte and security analysts said was a bid to establish a Southeast Asian base

Turn to Page 14

for IS.

The campaign to oust them turned into the Philippines' longest urban war, forcing about 400,000 people to flee their homes as the militants defied near daily bombing raids by hiding in basements, tunnels and mosques.

"We are afraid but we want to check on our houses," Jamaliah Lomontong, a village official in her 40s, told AFP on Tuesday as she and some relatives walked into their neighborhood near where the main fighting occurred.

Lomontong said her house had survived, although it had been looted.

"Anything easy to take away has gone - televisions, laptops," she said.

Only a few dozen civilians could be seen on Tuesday morning on the outskirts of the mostly destroyed eastern half of Marawi, where regular bursts of gunfire and occasional explosions could still be heard.

However, the sounds of war did not mean there was renewed fighting, according to Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Marawi forces.

He told AFP they were due to soldiers going through buildings looking for militants who may still be hiding, while troops were also detonating bombs that the gunmen had planted.

"It's possible that there were some (militants) left behind. In every war, that is the SOP (standard operating procedure)," Brawner told AFP.

"So the firing is part of the mopping up operations, because if there are holes, tunnels (in buildings), then the troops fire first into the hole before they check with their flashlights," he said.

'Joy and sadness'

In the western half of the city, which largely escaped the fighting, hundreds of residents

had begun returning.

"I feel a mixture of joy and sadness," businessman Gonaranko Mapandi Jr., 46, told AFP as he stood close to a military checkpoint.

"I'm happy because we are able to return. But I'm very sad at what happened to my city."

Some small shops selling daily household items and food, known locally as *sari-sari* stores, had reopened.

However, the authorities said the military had yet to give the all-clear for residents to return because of safety concerns.

And even when they do, large parts of the city would be uninhabitable with a multi-billion-dollar rehabilitation program expected to take years to complete, according to local government officials and aid workers.

Duterte has warned in recent days that, even with the defeat of the militants in Marawi, others may be hiding in nearby cities or elsewhere in the southern Philippines and planning further attacks.

Eric Alarcon, head of the Philippine Red Cross' operations for Marawi, said many residents may never return to the city because of security fears or because they would not be able to live in destroyed neighborhoods.

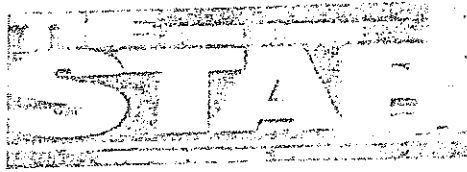
"There are a lot of factors. Some are just afraid that this is just a brief peace. Afterwards, there will be fighting again. They don't want their children to be affected," Alarcon told AFP.

"Others are looking for a new livelihood, a new business. Maybe they want a place where they can sustain their business."

Duterte declared martial law across the southern third of the Philippines, home to about 20 million and many of the nation's Muslim minority, immediately after the Marawi conflict ended.

- AFP

25 October 2017



Page: 1

Defense chiefs back freedom of navigation in SCS

By JAIME LAUDE

The South China Sea issue was highlighted at yesterday's ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), with participating states declaring

member-states – Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the US – as well as defense ministers from all ASEAN-member states, opposed the declaration.

"A majority of countries declared to

support for freedom of navigation and non-militarization as well as observance of a rules-based approach in resolving the conflict.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said none among ADMM Plus mem-

ber-states – Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the US – as well as defense ministers from all ASEAN-member states, opposed the declaration. "A majority of countries declared to support for freedom of navigation and non-militarization as well as observance of a rules-based approach in resolving the conflict. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said none among ADMM Plus mem-

Turn to Page 6

Even Beijing, Lorenzana said, did not oppose the position taken by par-

7

ticipating ADMM Plus states.

"Even China did not oppose all of those statements. So I think it's OK for China because it's supposed to be an open water," Lorenzana said.

With this development, the defense chief said it's now up to all the states to keep the South China Sea open, as the area benefits a lot of nations.

Aside from China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines have overlapping claims in the disputed water.

Except Brunei, all have troops deployed in their respective areas, with China having an upper hand in the region as it reclaimed several of the formerly unoccupied shoals.

China has transformed the formerly obscure maritime territory into a military base, complete with runways that can accommodate fighter jets and harbors for their navy and coast guard ships.

Beijing repeatedly belied claims that it established a military presence in the disputed region, saying the infrastructure is mainly for civilian purposes.

Earlier, the ASEAN 2017 National Organizing Committee (NOC) said President

Duterte would likely include in the agenda of the 31st ASEAN summit the sharing of resources in the South China Sea.

"The matter is still being discussed along with concerns earlier raised by the Chief Executive on the need for the 10 ASEAN-member states to fend off economic sanctions imposed by developed countries," NOC director for operations Marciano Paynor said yesterday.

Resource-sharing strategy would still be a subject of talks during the meeting of senior officials of ASEAN member-states, he said.

The strategy, Paynor said, would be a "win-win situation and solution" for the maritime dispute that has dogged both the ASEAN and China.

"As always, the devil is in the details and sometimes, in the details, there's one aspect that might not be agreeable to one and because these are consensus, it has to be threshed out," Paynor said.

"So I'll say, in principle, yes, of course, that is one objective of ASEAN," he added.

Paynor said Duterte's concerns on economic sanctions would also be discussed, whether it would be part of the agenda.

In a speech during an ASEAN forum last week, Duterte cited as a productive effort the Philippine decision not to confront Beijing on the territorial issue.

"The South China Sea is one issue, but we are not in a hurry," Duterte

said during an event in Pasay City last week.

"What we did was really the correct step to avoid confrontational talks with almost all of the parties concerned. Just ask for a limited time to solve the problem and sharing of the resources if it could be done," he said.

Duterte urged claimant countries to respect each other's interest.

"The economic zones provided are good and our consensus and concessions that are part of the respect for each other's interest," he said, adding China is sticking to its claims that it owns a portion of the area.

Regional development

Duterte vowed to rally ASEAN member states toward achieving more economic development in the region.

"There are so many things that are asked of us, even the products that would enter the European market and the United States," he said.

"And it seems that the tariff is lowered or none at all. There are so many conditions that affect the entire package of our trade relations with almost everybody," he added.

Although he did not directly refer to the European Union, the European Parliament recently adopted a resolution urging the EU to persuade the Philippines to stop extrajudicial killings related to the anti-drug campaign.

– With Christina Mendez

25 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

3 Army generals step up fight vs religious extremism

CAMP SIONGCO, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao: Three newly promoted Army generals in Central Mindanao have vowed to intensify their efforts in the fight against religious extremism.

Brig. Gen. Diosdado Carreon of the 601st Brigade, Brig. Gen. Jesus Sarsagat of the 603rd Brigade and Brig. Gen. Bismark Soliba of the 1st Mechanized Brigade, who got one-star rank promotions, made the commitment at the 30th founding anniversary of the 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division here on Monday.

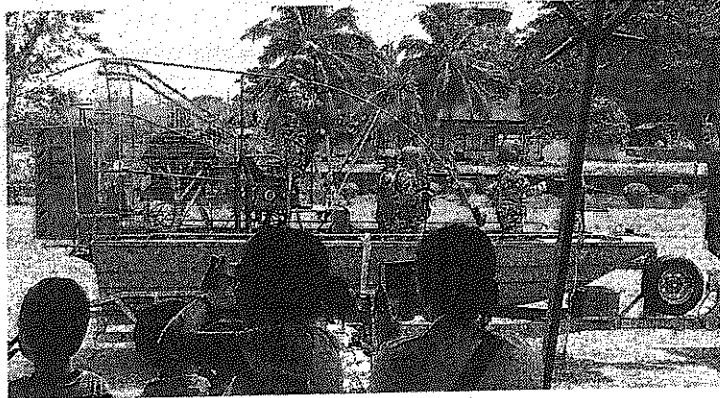
Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commanding general of the Philippine Army, led the traditional "donning of ranks" on the three new generals.

Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, 6th Infantry Division (ID) commander, assisted.

Dela Vega said Carreon, Sarsagat and Soliba, whose units are under his operational control, will engage in peace-building activities to end threats from local groups claiming allegiance to the Islamic State (IS).

"They shall work closely with the mayors and provincial governors. They will also tap the academe, the Muslim and Christian religious communities to achieve their peace objectives," he added.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the 6th ID, told *The Manila Times* that they invited congressmen, governors and mayors to



RIVER BOAT An Australian-made river boat was paraded by the 6th Infantry Division during its 30th founding anniversary. It shows the capability of the Army in Central Mindanao to engage the enemy in running gunbattles on the rivers of Maguindanao and Cotabato City. The river boat is fitted with a machine gun and can carry a team of nine soldiers. PHOTO BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

witness the occasion so they can work closely with the military in achieving peace.

Among local officials present were Gov. Pax Mangudadatu of Sultan Kudarat province, Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu of Maguindanao province, Mayor Zamzamin Ampatuan of Rajah Buayan municipality and Rep. Bai Sandra Sema of the First District of Maguindanao and concurrently Deputy Speaker for Mindanao.

Soliba is the most senior among the three new Army generals in central Mindanao.

He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1985.

Carreon and Sarsagat belong to PMA Class of 1987 and Class of 1988, respectively.

Chief Supt. Graciano Mijares, who assumed on Friday as director of the Police Regional Office-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in Camp SK Pendatun in Parang town in Maguindanao, was a classmate of Sarsagat.

The battalions under Sarsagat are deployed to Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, ARMM component provinces.

Carreon, first assigned in Central Mindanao as a junior officer, was a colonel when he assumed early this year the post of 601st Brigade commander based in Tacurong City.

"Our assignment here in Central Mindanao provided us enough learning on the socio-economic, political and cultural dimensions of the local communities, all stakeholders to the Mindanao peace process," he said.

Units of the 6th ID are scattered in Central Mindanao's adjoining North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces.

The division also covers parts of Lanao del Sur, whose provincial capital is Marawi City.

Its 30th anniversary program, with the theme "Kampilan: Sa Ikatatlung Taon, Matibay at Matatag na Samahan Kaagapay ng Mamamayan Tungo sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran" was highlighted by a parade of troops geared for battle and personnel trained in disaster response operations and rescue missions.

The 6th ID also showed its capability to engage the enemy in running gunbattles along the rivers of Maguindanao and Cotabato City after it paraded one of its Australian-made river boats equipped with machine guns and can accommodate one team or nine soldiers on board.

Dela Vega said their main concern now is to insulate local communities from infiltration by Islamic militants espousing animosity toward non-Muslims and the government including soldiers maintaining peace in the countryside.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

25 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page:

A7

Negros awaits troops' return

BACOLOD CITY: Negros Occidental is awaiting the return of troops belonging to the 11th, 15th and 82nd Infantry Battalions (IBs) who were deployed to Zamboanga, Lanao del Norte and Marawi City.

Governor Alfredo Maranon Jr. on Monday said that when he met with President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday he was assured of the troops' return to Negros Island.

Military records showed that three soldiers from the 15th IB and three Negrenses from the elite Scout Ranger unit of the Philippine Army were killed in Marawi.

Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, 3rd ID commanding general, said the communist New People's Army took advantage of the troop pullout from Negros by consolidating their forces.

At present, there are only two Army battalions assigned to Negros, compared to four in previous years, under the

supervision of two infantry brigades.

In his speech in Bacolod on Sunday, Duterte warned the public to be prepared for possible retaliation from the terrorist Maute Group after their defeat in Marawi.

While he said he was not trying to scare the public, the President said he wants everyone to be prepared for any eventuality.

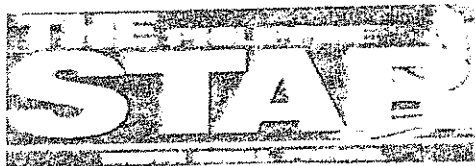
"Terrorism is everywhere and no nation has escaped from the clutches of the evil IS [Islamic State]. It's an ideology that is dedicated to just killing human beings and destroying places," he noted.

The Maute Group is affiliated with the IS.

"It would help that everybody would also watch everybody," the President said, adding, "Not really a profiling, I hate it. I do not do it... Sometimes we have to know things within your control..."

EUGENE Y. ADIONG

25 October 2017



Page: 16

Soldier from Marawi gunned down

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A soldier who returned home after fighting in Marawi was shot dead in Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur after midnight yesterday.

Cpl. Rhufel Lihay-Lihay, 39, of the First Army Division's Civic Military Operation was playing billiard along Urro corner Bana

streets in Purok Sweet Honey, Barangay Sta. Maria when unidentified motorcycle-riding men arrived and opened fire.

Lihay-Lihay suffered multiple gunshot wounds.

At least 22 bullet shells for a caliber .45 and 9mm pistols were recovered at the scene.

A brother of the victim told police their family is clueless on the motive for the killing.

Gold Cross medals

Meanwhile, four officers of the Autonomous Region in

Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police were among those awarded Gold Cross medals for helping fight Maute militants in Marawi.

Senior Superintendent Rolando Anduyan, assistant director for administration; Superintendent Danny Bacas, intelligence division chief; Senior Inspector Seth Mark Alob and Police Officer 3 Isah

Sangcad received the award.

The symbolic medal pinning ceremony was held in Marawi on Sunday and witnessed by officers of Task Force Marawi and commanders of various police and military units.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said Anduyan and Bacas led a team of law

enforcers who arrested Omin-ta Farhana Maute, the mother of Maute group leaders Omar and Abdullah, in Masiu town last June.

"The Western Mindanao Command is grateful to all policemen from ARMM and other parts of the country who helped restore law and order in Marawi," Galvez said. – With John Unson

October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8

2 soldiers hurt in NPA combat

CAMP NAKAR, Quezon — Two Army soldiers were wounded in an encounter with a group of New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Sitio View Deck, Barangay Lumutan, here last Monday afternoon. A sketchy report reaching this camp at 1 p.m. yesterday, it was learned that Bravo Company of the army's 80th Infantry Battalion (80IB) engaged the rebels in a gunbattle that ended in the fleeing of the guerrillas deeper into the forest. However, a Corporal Seno and the Private First Class Dalingay were wounded in combat. Military officials here said that while little information about the operation is available, soldiers were still in hot pursuit of the fleeing guerrillas. (Danny J. Estacio)

12

25 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: B

Abu Sayyaf beheads ex-barangay chief

ZAMBOANGA CITY (PNA) – A former barangay official was executed by beheading by alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in the nearby province of Basilan, a top police official said Monday.

Sr. Supt. Nickson Muksan, Basilan police director, identified the victim as Hadji Najer Bohong, 58, former barangay chair of Mahatalang, Sumisip town.

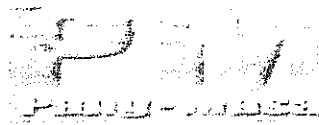
Muksan disclosed that the decapitated body of Bohong was found by his relatives at around 10 a.m. Sunday in Sitio Upper Bato Lareg, Barangay Mahatalang.

He said an investigation showed that the victim went to Sitio Upper Bato Lareg on Saturday supposedly to pick up Yakal round timber to be used in his house.

But he said followers of ASG sub-leader Furuji Indama seized the victim.

13

25 October 2017



Pahina. 2

Army Corporal tinadtad ng bala

Isang Army Corporal ang pinagbabaril ng hindi pa nakilalang dalawang armadong salarin habang naglalaro ng bilyar sa Purok Sweet Honey, Brgy. Sta Maria, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur kahapon ng madaling araw.

Nasawi noon din dahil sa tama ng bala sa ulo at katawan ang biktimgang si Corporal Rhufel Alvarez Linay-Lihay, 39, miyembro ng Civil Military Operation Battalion ng 1st Infantry "Tabak" Division ng Philippine Army na nakabase sa Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

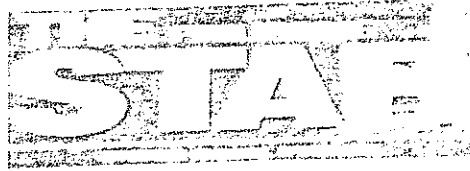
Batay sa ulat, bago naganap ang pamamasiang sa biktima dakong alas-12:40 ng madaling araw sa panulukan ng Bana Street, Purok Sweet Honey, Brgy. Sta Maria, Pagadian City ay kasalukuyang naglalaro ng bilyar ang biktima nang sumulpot ang dalawang armadong lalaki at walang kaabog-abog na pinagbabaril ang biktima.

Tumakas ang mga suspek sakay ng motor-siklo nang masigurong patay na ang biktima.

Narekober ng mga otoridad sa crime scene ang 11 piraso ng bala ng cal .45 pistol. - Joy Cantos-

14

25 October 2017



Page: 10



The Philippine Air Force welcomes Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerald Kintanar as new chief replacing Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina during the change of command and retirement ceremony witnessed by President Duterte at Clark Air Base in Pampanga yesterday.

ERNE PENAREDONDO

15

25 October 2017



Page: 11

IS SPREADS INFLUENCE TO REMOTE VILLAGES

DATU SALIBO, MAGUINDANAO—The leader of the Islamic State (IS) group in the Philippines, Isnilon Hapilon, is dead. The city his forces seized, Marawi, is back in government hands after five months of scorched-earth combat.

But IS influence in the Philippines is far from over, and communities in Mindanao are bracing for the next battles.

"I don't like to fight. But this is our land and we will not let them take this like they destroyed Marawi," said a veteran Christian militia fighter who goes by the nom de guerre Commander Ilang-ilang.

According to her, it's only a matter of time before the IS black flag flutters in the mountainous periphery on the outskirts of Kauran, the farming community where she grew up and where she talked to journalists for The New York Times recently, 144 kilometers south of Marawi.

"That's why I have these," Ilang-ilang said, gently tapping her .45-caliber pistol and a separate revolver, both holstered loosely around

her thin waist.

First gun at 13

The commander said she picked up her first gun when she was 13, in the early 1970s, and her family was embroiled in fighting Moro separatist rebels in the area.

That separatist movement, and the sectarian and political resentment that drove it, never really went away. It evolved into militant groups that fought the government for decades, and in recent years proved to be fertile ground for the IS ideology and recruiters, as that Middle East-based movement sought to extend its influence around the globe.

That the old and resilient militant cells here are now being strengthened by the brand and resources of the IS international network has people worried all over Mindanao—including even some of the Moro militants whose former comrades joined the extremist group.

In a twist that would have been unimaginable even after they signed a peace deal with the government three years ago, members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are now leading their former enemies in the military against what some believe could become the next big IS uprising.

They are fighting in the forbidding marshlands of the town of Datu Salibo, a 208-km drive south from Marawi.

Commander Asiong

Local Islamist groups claiming to represent the IS group have been trying to recruit the young with promises of cash and adventure, according to Commander Asiong.

He is the self-appointed spokesperson of the same Christian militia unit that Ilang-ilang belongs to: Red God's Army.

Asiong, 60, a former soldier turned community leader, said, the IS reach in Mindanao had spread, aided by operatives in the Middle East who had posted well-produced videos of the

so-called religious war and particularly by how IS loyalists in Marawi managed to fight off the government for months.

His years of military service, spent fighting Moro rebels, have left him with deep scars in his neck and torso, and his left leg was all but cut away to save it after several bullets hit him there.

"They can regroup, join other IS allied groups here," Asiong said. "While we have guns, our community is no match for them. So we pray that the government finishes them in Marawi. If not, there is nothing we can do except to protect ourselves and fight to the death. We will defend our land until troops arrive."

BIFF diversionary attack

On Christmas Day two years ago, a breakaway faction from the MILF called the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) attacked several areas and killed 11 Christian farmers, Asiong said.

The BIFF has welcomed the Marawi offensive and has helped divert the Army's attention by attacking nearby civilian communities.

In June, as heavy fighting was going on in Marawi, BIFF militants briefly held more than 30 students in the remote town of Pigkawayan, about 80 km south, forcing the military to spread its forces even more thinly.

BIFF spokesperson Abu Misry Mama said: "The fighting in Marawi is a good distraction. All I can say is, they do not belong to our group, which continues to fight for a separate homeland. But the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

Battle in marshlands

Another of those jihadist friends, a group that has explicitly pledged loyalty to IS is fighting government and MILF forces in the marshlands near Datu Salibo.

IS militants here are headed by the militant commander,

Abu Turaibe, and are believed to number a few hundred. He was once allied with the MILF, but he broke away in protest over the peace deal with the government.

The swamp battle with IS militants has been going on since August, but has gotten little press coverage, largely because the area is inaccessible and much of the attention has been focused on Marawi.

Von al-Haq, the MILF's military commander, said that his fighters were "swimming while attacking, because the swamp waters are very deep."

MILF-gov't alliance winning

But the MILF and military alliance has slowly been winning, and in one offensive last month, at least 20 improvised bombs and a number of black IS flags have been recovered.

Nassrolah Gani, a 35-year-old police officer whose unit is helping the military in recovering casualties from the crocodile-infested marsh-

land, said his men would be easily lost in the swamps were it not for their MILF guides.

Boots get sucked off by the mud, and thorny bushes are a natural impediment to moving faster. Their assault rifles often get wet, making them less reliable.

"It's an open mostly flat marshland, where you are open to sniper fire," Gani said. "When you enter the swamps, you've already dug your own grave."

Gani said the latest intelligence data indicated that there were several Malaysian fighters who had joined Abu Turaibe's group.

Whether they had escaped from Marawi to this new front was hard to tell, but Gani said their presence had bolstered the enemy force.

"We used to fight the MILF, but they are now fighting alongside us. So what is the bigger enemy? It is the Daesh-inspired groups," he added, using another name for the IS group.

Increased risk

Rommel Banlaoi, a security analyst who heads the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research, said that other southern cities were at increased risk of attack by energized IS loyalists.

"They have won the battle strategically, as they have proven how long they can endure the fight against government forces," Banlaoi said, adding that the Marawi battle will stand as an example of "martyrdom that can inspire others."

After the spectacle of the Marawi siege, more foreign fighters will be attuned to the fight in Mindanao, where past government efforts had aimed at ousting Muslims in favor of the Christian majority.

"Mindanao will continue to suffer the challenges of armed conflicts and violence because of many issues associated with the struggle of the people there for self-determination" being advocated by the Muslim forces, Banlaoi said. "It has simply become the new land of jihad." —NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

25 October 2017

INSIDER

Page: 16

POSTMORTEM

AÑO: IS SENT \$1.5M TO FUND MARAWI SIEGE

Recipe for fighting IS

"With what happened in Mosul, the Philippines and Raqqa, the different countries are now confident that if ever an Isis siege would erupt... they now have the recipe or the formula to fight it," Año said, using another name for IS.

He added that the Philippine military was ready to share its battle experiences in mosque-studded Marawi.

The siege, which was launched on May 23, left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead, including more than 900 militants, and displaced some 400,000 residents, including the entire population of Marawi, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines.

Military airstrikes, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire turned the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities into a smoldering wasteland of disfigured buildings and bullet-pocked mosques and houses.

It was one of the most devastating urban fights the country has witnessed since World War II, Año said.

Like in Mosul, the black-flag waving militants plotted to launch the Marawi siege on the first day of Ramadan, the holy Muslim month of fasting, but they were forced to stage the attack prematurely after Philippine Army troops raided the hideout of its leaders.

They also took hundreds of hostages as human shields and

employed snipers to slow the advance of the military, Año said.

Mosul videos

"Every day, they watched videos of Isis in Mosul," Año said of the Marawi siege leaders, including Isnilon Hapilon, a top Asian terror suspect who was killed by Filipino troops last week.

"That was their blueprint, that was their pattern," he said, adding that troops recovered IS video discs of the Mosul violence in captured militant positions in Marawi.

It took about three weeks for thousands of government forces, which have been battling insurgents in jungle settings, to adopt to the urban fighting, Año said.

Two battalions of Marines, for example, got stuck in a beach until a combat engineering battalion was quickly organized to clear mounds of debris that allowed them to move inland.

The massive offensive led to the killings of at least 10 key terror suspects from different extremist groups that have pledged allegiance to IS, including Hapilon, four siblings belonging to the local Maute clan, and Indonesian and Malaysian militants, he said.

It would have taken five to 10 years for troops to hunt down and find all those militant leaders in the jungles of the south, where Año said the extremists had mastery of the terrain and support from local clans.

IS funding

The leaders of the bloody insurrection, who came from different ethnic backgrounds, were linked by their desire to be recognized by IS as its Southeast Asian branch and obtain funding from the Middle East-based group.

When the militants forged an alliance, IS sent \$1.5 million in batches to finance the attack, Año said, citing intelligence information, including some provided by the United States.

But Año said the Marawi militants, like their Middle East counterparts, were blindsided by their ambition and miscalculated the response to their plot, which involved the seizure of a military camp in Marawi.

"They thought that they can get the helicopters and armored vehicles and the people of Marawi will protect them, and there will be a flag flying and they can call it their own, an enclave, and probably more foreign fighters will come," Año said.

Tens of thousands of Marawi residents, however, abandoned the city in panic and troops managed to secure Marawi's military camp and other vital areas. —AP INQ

CLARK FREEPORT—The Islamic State (IS) group sent at least \$1.5 million to finance the recently ended siege of Marawi City, with the assault leaders using the 2014 IS seizure of the Iraqi city of Mosul as a blueprint, according to Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The battle defeats of the brutal group in Syria and Iraq, and now the IS-aligned gunmen in Marawi, however, show a major vulnerability of the extremists: Their audacious territorial occupations tend to crumble over time as they're cornered in urban settings by the relentless firepower of US-backed offensives, Año said in an interview with The Associated Press late Monday.

The counterterrorism victories have given governments confidence that IS—which shocked the world with its rise a few years ago—could be stopped and defeated, said Año, who oversaw the military campaign that ended the five-month siege in Marawi this week.

"They underestimated the reaction of the different countries in the world, the alliances," he said.

25 October 2017

Page: 116

NHA: Law needed to redistribute idle gov't houses

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@JGamilINQ

The National Housing Authority (NHA) said idle housing units originally meant for soldiers and policemen would be given to the poor and other beneficiaries once a law was passed allowing the agency to redistribute these government assets.

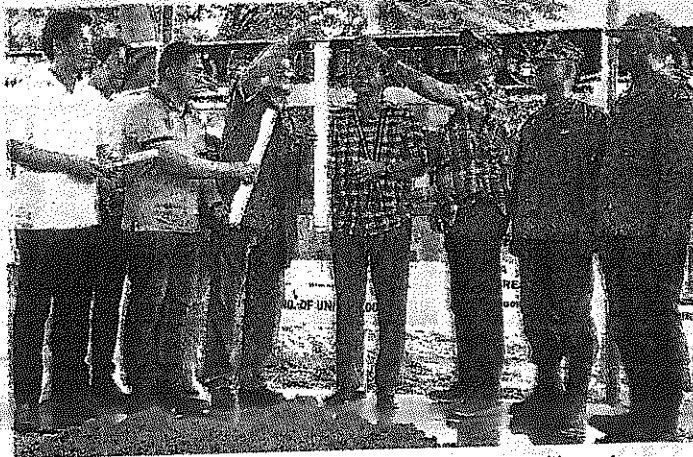
"The redistribution can only take place once there is a law allowing us to redistribute," Elsie Trinidad, NHA spokesperson, said in a press conference in the agency's central office in Quezon City on Monday.

"This is because the funding [for the Armed Forces of the Philippines/Philippine National Police Housing Project] comes from the [General Appropriations Act]. Technically, we're not just allowed to dispose [of the units for other beneficiaries] unless there is a new law...allowing us to redistribute," she said.

The urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), whose members occupied some 2,000 units in a government housing project in Bulacan province in March, continued to press for the housing agency to prioritize "those most in need" in the redistribution.

President Duterte earlier allowed Kadamay members to keep the houses they occupied, promising better units for soldiers and policemen.

On Oct. 4, the House of Representatives approved on third reading House Joint Resolution No. 15, which authorized the



President Duterte, accompanied by defense and housing officials, leads the groundbreaking ceremony for a housing project for soldiers in San Miguel town, Bulacan province.

—JOAN BONDOC

NHA to "award to other qualified beneficiaries" the un-awarded, unoccupied and surrendered, and canceled housing units otherwise meant for military, police, fire, jail and prison personnel.

More beneficiaries

The Congress resolution, in pushing for the redistribution, cited data from the Department of Budget and Management that as of March 31, only 8,240 units were actually occupied of 62,308 units completed and 52,892 awarded under the NHA's AFP/PNP Housing Project, a program started under the administration of former President Benigno Aquino III in 2011.

Trinidad said possible beneficiaries were not just limited to Kadamay but also to other housing applicants.

During the press confer-

ence, Susan Nonato, AFP/PNP Housing Project head, said no beneficiary from among uniformed personnel had surrendered their claims to the housing units.

Nonato said most of the time, the award to the unit would be canceled by the housing board because the beneficiary did not occupy it by the time a "moving-in" inspection was conducted by housing authorities.

"But they don't turn them down. In fact, they end up [belatedly] chasing after them," Nonato said in Filipino.

Validation

Nonato said to date, 63,709 units were "fully committed" under the AFP/PNP program, with 60,265 units already awarded. The rest was subject to a "prequalification validation" of beneficiaries.

Around 10,000 units have been "reserved" for priority distribution to kin of uniformed personnel killed or to personnel wounded on duty who have applied for units under the housing program.

Nonato said applications were mounting after "new designs" to the units, including the expansion of the floor area from 40 to 60 square meters were presented and duplex-type models were introduced under the Duterte administration.

There are already 10 AFP/PNP housing sites for development under the present administration, the latest of which was unveiled in Barangay Calumpang in San Miguel town, also in Bulacan, on Oct. 11. The site will be for the exclusive use of Scout Rangers.

Mass housing

In a statement, however, Kadamay said Congress' resolution noted that the units to be redistributed were intended for the use of "other government employees, public school teachers, barangay officials and the lowest of income earners."

"We call for the use of all idle housing for the poorest and homeless, including those built for ISF (informal settler families) that have been left to rot for so long. However, this will solve only a portion of the problem. The government must enact a genuine mass housing program that caters to housing rights of the people for decent and affordable shelter," Arellano said. INQ

October 2017

INSPIRED
INTEGRITY

Page: 16

Envoy says US played key role in Marawi success

CLARK—Washington's top diplomat in the Philippines said on Tuesday the US military provided assistance to Filipino forces against pro-Islamic State (IS) militants during the Marawi campaign that was critical to a successful outcome.

US Ambassador Sung Kim said US surveillance aircraft and other equipment helped monitor and assess the positions of the militants during the five-month operation.

The US military assistance made a "huge difference" in the battle, particularly its intelligence support, including the deployment of Gray Eagle and P-3 Orion aircraft, Kim said.

He said the extent of the militants' infiltration of Marawi was a surprise to both the US and Philippine governments.

strident anti-American rhetoric, has made no secret of his plans to cultivate ties with America's rivals, Russia and China. Those efforts appear to be starting to bear fruit.

Duterte credits China

He has credited China for its military assistance, saying it was one of the 100 sniper rifles donated by Beijing that fired the bullet that killed Isnilon Hapilon, the IS "emir" in Southeast Asia, on Oct. 16.

The ranger unit involved in the operation, however, said the shot was fired from a heavier weapon mounted on an armored vehicle.

Just before he meets Mattis, Mr. Duterte was scheduled to sit down with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who, like



Sung Kim

"When you encounter a situation like that, you obviously need good intelligence to be able to target key areas, and I think that's where our support was quite critical," Kim said.

The ambassador spoke on the sidelines of a meeting of defense ministers from the 10-na-

Mattis, was attending a gathering of Asian defense ministers at Clark, Pampanga province.

Lorenzana told reporters on Tuesday about the receipt of heavy equipment from China to help rebuild Marawi. He expected to receive four fast boats from China before the end of the year.

The United States is the Philippines' only defense treaty ally and its biggest source of hardware and training, providing about \$1 billion in equipment since 2000.

The United States has a treaty obligation to defend the Philippines from potential aggressors, but the relationship had deteriorated in recent years.

Mr. Duterte last year called then US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore," and Obama canceled plans to meet with him.

tion Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The United States is not a member, but US Defense Secretary James Mattis attended portions of the group's meetings and held separate talks with many of his counterparts.

Mattis, on his flight to the Philippines, commended Manila on the operation and on Tuesday discussed ways to deepen US-Philippines military ties in talks with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

As Mattis prepared to meet President Duterte later on Tuesday, five Russian warships were parked off the Philippines and Moscow prepared to formally hand over thousands of assault rifles, a million rounds of ammunition and 20 Army trucks at a public ceremony on Wednesday.

Mr. Duterte, known for his

US President Donald Trump has praised Duterte for his violent crackdown on drug suspects. The two presidents are expected to meet when Trump travels to the Philippines next month as part of an Asia tour.

Kim said the "tone and substance" of bilateral ties have improved over the 10 months since he's been in his post.

"President Duterte has made clear that even as he pursues improved relations with countries like China and Russia, he will continue to focus on making sure that the US-Philippines alliance remains strong," Kim said.

"The fact that the Chinese and the Russians have provided some rifles, I'm not sure is really such a cause for concern for the United States," he said.—REPORTS

FROM AP AND REUTERS

October 2017



Page: A10

NEW COMBAT TERRAIN

AUSTRALIAN FORCES TO TRAIN FILIPINO TROOPS IN URBAN WARFARE

CLARK FREEPORT—The Australian defense chief on Tuesday said her country would deploy forces to train Filipino troops in urban warfare following a disastrous siege by pro-Islamic State (IS) militants on Marawi City.

Philippine troops accustomed to battling insurgents in jungle terrain struggled for months to rout the hundreds of militants who took cover in buildings and houses in Marawi. Officials finally declared on Monday that the insurrection had been crushed.

Defense Minister Marise Payne said Australian defense forces would provide training on a range of urban combat skills to Filipino soldiers and Marines in Philippine military bases to help fight the extremists' brutal tactics.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana thanked Australia and said the Philippines planned to build its own training centers for Filipino forces.

Bilateral meeting

Australia has a status of forces agreement that allows its forces to train in the Philippines, which had also signed a similar pact with treaty ally, the United States.

Payne and Lorenzana spoke at a news conference after holding a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the two-day Defense Ministers' Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its Dialogue Partners at Clark, Pampanga province.

Battling terrorism was high on the agenda of the defense ministers' meeting.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, said it took a few weeks for Filipino troops to adjust and shift their tactics during the fighting in the mosque-studded city.

Hundreds of Marines got stuck up in a beach at one time, for example, and only managed to take positions inland after a battalion of combat engineers was organized to clear huge mounds of debris.

"It's very different because the terrorists were exploiting the use of solid structures, basements and they're able to maximize the use of snipers, improvised explosive devices, bombs and then they used civilians as human shields," Año told The Associated Press (AP) in an interview.

"We will come up with a new doctrine on how to fight in ur-

ban warfare," he added.

Canberra has been aiding Manila against IS-inspired terrorists in Marawi since September, deploying two AP-3C Orion

aircraft for surveillance while helping in information-gathering and analysis.

Australia has experience tackling IS forces in Iraq and

Syria, and Payne said it was crucial the Philippines had the knowhow to keep extremists at bay now that the key fight had been won.

She said Canberra would send teams immediately to provide urban warfare counterterrorism training.

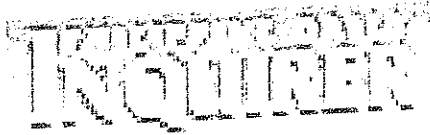
"The practical training the Australian Defense Force will provide will ensure the Philippines defense force is better able to counter the brutal tactics being employed by terrorists," she said.

Payne said the spread of IS-inspired terrorism was a direct threat to Australia and its interests, and Canberra was determined it "cannot establish a geographic foothold in the region."

Daily airstrikes and intense ground combat left large parts of Marawi in ruins.

More than 1,100 combatants and civilians perished in the Marawi fighting, including at least 920 militants and 165 soldiers and policemen, in the worst urban fighting in the Philippines in recent memory, Año said. —REPORTS FROM AFP AND AP

25 October 2017



Page: 110

SEEDS OF HATRED

MARAWI SIEGE HAS ENDED BUT NOT IS MILITANCY

KOTA KINABALU—The deaths of key Islamic State (IS) leaders in the Marawi City siege are just a temporary setback as the militant group has sown seeds of hatred deeply in Central Mindanao, an analyst says.

“The battle for Marawi was not just a spur-of-the-moment campaign. It involved thorough planning and preparations since 2014,” said Octavio Dinampo, an antiskidnapping activist based in Iloilo.

Dinampo said those who failed to emerge would certainly regroup.

On Monday, the military declared an end to five months of urban warfare in Marawi City.

“There are no more militants in Marawi,” Dinampo told reporters.

Two Malaysians—former university lecturer Mahmud Ahmad and former Selayang Municipal Council officer Muhammad Joramee Awang Ramee aka Abu Nur—were killed in Marawi.

‘From from the truth’

Dinampo said the pronouncement that Marawi had been freed and liberated from the clutch of terrorism “is far from the truth.”

“It is just a matter of time under a new leadership when this same cause will be repeated,” he said, referring to the IS leaders who were killed in Marawi like the brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute, IS “emir” for Southeast Asia Isnilon Hapilon and Mahmud.

The militants, Dinampo said, were able to tie up a conventional armed force in an urban war of attrition for almost five months that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) had failed to do in the past.

He warned that as long as the historical injustices were not redressed, there would be an ample supply of warriors who could be enticed to join the militants anytime before or even after a temporary peace settlement resolved the longstanding Bangsamoro issue.

—THE STAR OF MALAYSIA/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

25 October 2012

INQUIRER

Page: 115

Rebuilding Marawi a daunting task

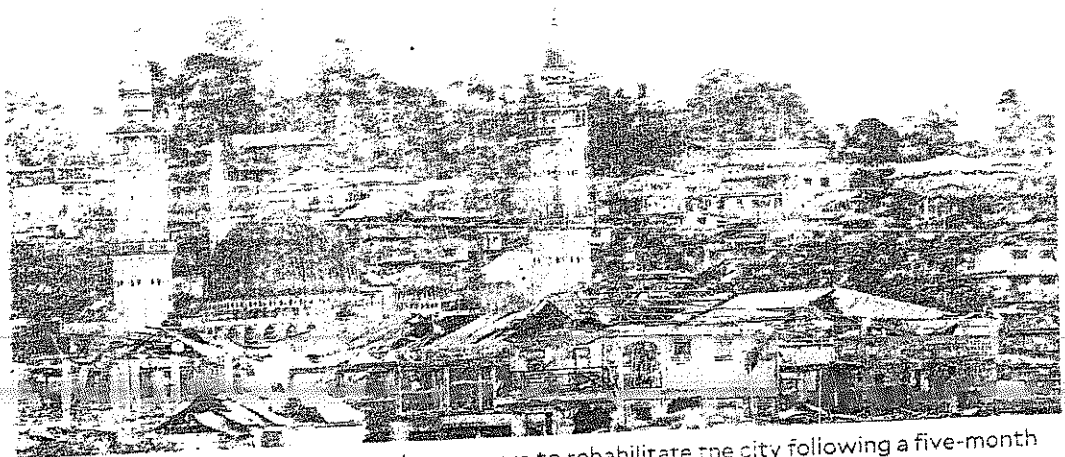
Mayor says destruction massive, rehabilitation to take time to make city livable

MARAWI CITY—The task of clearing the city of debris and the demolition of buildings severely damaged by the battle between government forces and Islamic State-inspired militants would not just be physically challenging but would also be emotionally difficult for residents. Mayor Majul Gandamra said.

"Emotionally, it's very hard for us to see the ruins and destruction left by the atrocities committed by the militant group," Gandamra told the Inquirer.

He said the destruction would remind them "of how many people suffered during the five-month ordeal."

The military stopped all combat operations in Marawi following a final battle with terrorists on Monday, exactly five months after members of the Maute terror group and Abu



Marawi officials appeal for help as they prepare to rehabilitate the city following a five-month fighting between government soldiers and terrorists. —RICHEL V. UMEL

Sayyaf laid siege to the city.

Gandamra said they expected the destruction to be massive in areas where the heaviest firefights occurred—the 24 villages that terrorists held for the past five months. "It will definitely

take us a long period ... to fully reconstruct Marawi and make it livable, especially the war-torn (areas)," he said.

Villages like Mapandi, Bangolo, Raya Madaya and Dausayan were among the main

battle areas that came under heavy aerial bombardment during the fighting.

Gandamra said clearing the city of debris could not be done without the aid of heavy equipment.

"High-tech heavy equipment are necessary, especially in the demolition process and the proper collection and disposal of debris," he added.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao said the cleanup of villages most affected by the fighting could take place after the military had completed its mopping up operations and recovery of unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices, booby traps and firearms that terrorists left behind.

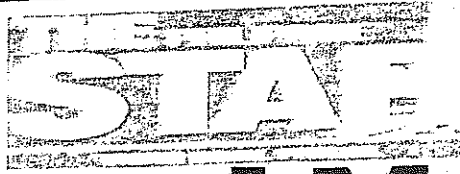
"We cannot put the lives of those working for the recovery of cadavers in danger," he said.

Brawner added once all clearing, recovery and cleanup activities had been completed, the actual rebuilding of the city could start. —DIVINA SUSON, RICHEL

UMEL AND ALLAN NAWAL INC.

23

25 October 2017



Page: 15

Alleged Maute financier nabbed in Valenzuela

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

A suspected financier of the Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorist group was arrested in Valenzuela City, police announced yesterday.

Aminkisa Romato Macadato was nabbed based on martial law arrest orders 1 and 2 of the Department of National Defense, according to the Philippine National

Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Chief Superintendent Noli Romana, CIDG deputy director for administration, said Macadato is the son of former mayor Ibrahim Macadato of Butig, Lanao del Sur and nephew of Farhana Maute, matriarch of the Maute brothers Omar and Abdullah.

Armed with a search warrant, members of the

CIDG National Capital Region, CIDG Eastern Police District, National Capital Region Police Office, Special Action Force and the military swooped down on the suspect's hideout along P. Santiago street in Barangay Paso de Blas at around 5:15 a.m. on Oct. 7.

"Follow-up operations of intelligence operatives and security forces led to his location in Valenzuela," Romana said.

Police said they recovered a .45-caliber pistol, a hand grenade and ammunition from Macadato.

He was allegedly involved in the attack on a detachment of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bayabao, Butig in February 2016, which left two soldiers dead and six others wounded.

Macadato allegedly facilitated the collection of firearms, ammunition and food supplies

for Maute rebels in Butig.

While hiding in Valenzuela, Macadato allegedly provided the Maute group with logistics and money.

He is being held at the Valenzuela police jail on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Valenzuela Mayor Rexlon Gatchalian lauded the arrest of Macadato.

Gatchalian said the city remains safe and peaceful despite the arrest of a sus-

pected terrorist.

"With his capture, the Maute terrorist group crumbled. The city government will continue to work with police to ensure the safety of the public," he said. — With Marc Jayson Cayabyab

October 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 81

2 Maute financiers arrested

BY RAYMOND AFRICA
AND VICTOR REYES

THE PNP yesterday said a financier of the terrorist Maute Group was arrested in an operation in Valenzuela City on October 7.

Aminkisa Romato Macadato, a son of former mayor Ibrahim Macadato of Butig in Lanao del Sur, is in the list of about 200 persons issued arrest orders on suspicion of giving support to the Maute which attacked Marawi City on May 23. The attack prompted the declaration of martial law in the whole of Mindanao. The military ended operations against the Maute on Monday. Martial law remains.

The list was issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who is martial law administrator.

Lorenzana yesterday announced the arrest of another Maute financier – Abdul Patah alias “Kitong.” He did not give

details on the arrest.

“This guy is a Filipino who was living in Jeddah (in Saudi Arabia). His name cropped up as one of the terrorist financiers,” said Lorenzana.

Lorenzana said Patah was monitored calling Filipino terrorists in the Philippines.

“This telephone number (used) was traced to him,” he said.

He said Patah was earlier arrested by the PNP but a judge freed him “because the PNP did have enough evidence to hold him.”

Unconfirmed reports said Patah was nabbed by immigration authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on September 26 and later released.

“Now that he is caught, he will be kept for quite some time while we study further the charges against him,” said Lorenzana.

Lorenzana also said security officials are on the lookout for three Filipinos who may return from the Middle East after fight-

ing with IS elements.

He said the three Filipinos are in the list of about 30 Southeast Asian terrorists provided by the Philippine embassy in Baghdad about two to three months ago. He said the list came from authorities in the Middle East.

“They are still fighting there now. We’re looking at them now. We do not know if they are coming back or they have been killed in the Middle East,” said Lorenzana.

Chief Supt. Noli Romana, deputy director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Macadato was arrested in his lair at Unit 185, P. Santiago street, Paso de Blas in Valenzuela City.

Seized from him were a loaded .45 caliber pistol and a hand grenade.

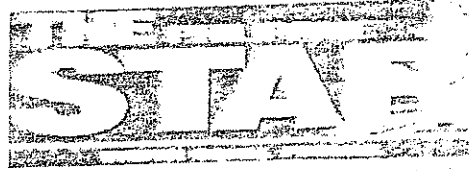
Romana said Macadato served as the Maute group’s “logistical support system” or financier while hiding in Metro Manila.

Macadato alias “Ricky” was involved in the attack by the Maute group on the detachment of the Army’s 51st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bayanao, Butig, Lanao del Sur on Feb. 20, 2016, which led to the death of two soldiers and the wounding of six others.

“He (Macadato) was also involved in the facilitation of firearms, ammunition, and food stuff deliveries and assisting wounded comrades of the Maute group in Butig,” Romana said.

25

25 October 2017



Page: 4

Marawi mayor asks for initial P92-B rehab fund

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra has asked the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) for an initial P92 billion to rehabilitate the city left in ruins after five months of battle with the terrorist Maute group.

The amount, he said, would be used not only for the city but for other areas in Lanao del Sur province.

Gandamra stressed the need to immediately restore basic utilities, such as water and electricity, to get Marawi back on its feet. Other utilities, he added, may take up to three years to become fully operational.

Defense Undersecretary Cesar Yano, who is also the TFBM executive director, said the Senate proposal to allocate P5 billion would only cover the expenses for early response and recovery but not actual rehabilitation.

He stressed that his office has started gathering a post-conflict needs assessment report, including an actual damage assessment, from all government agencies to guide them in crafting a comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

Yano is hopeful that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) would soon allow

the internally displaced persons (IDPs) from at least nine outskirt barangays to return to their homes. At least 33 out of 96 barangays in Marawi are considered "ground zero" after getting heavily damaged from all the fighting.

His office has, so far, identified 78,466 displaced families. Of the number, 95 percent sheltered with their relatives or friends and only five percent stayed in evacuation centers.

The task force and local government units, he added, are currently building an initial 1,175 transition shelters on a 14-hectare property in Barangay Sagonsongan.

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council is targeting to complete at least 600 of these shelters before yearend as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) aims to complete site development by next month. Other buildings - like mosque, market, school, health center and police station - will also be constructed.

Yano said there was a suggestion to retain the ruins in "ground zero" so it could serve as a reminder to the present and future generations of the outcome of violent extremism.

But Gandamra disagreed with the idea, saying they

prefer to rebuild from there and expand westward. "My *kababayans* do not want to be reminded of what took place here, of what happened to us. So it would be better if we would just rebuild (ground zero)," he said.

Members of the Senate special committee on Marawi City plan to visit the place next month to ensure that the rehabilitation plan would be comprehensive and truly address the needs of residents.

Sen. Grace Poe said additional financial requirements for the rehabilitation should be included as items in the Unprogrammed Funds provision in the proposed P3.7-trillion national budget for 2018, pointing out that the initial P20 billion the government wanted to release would not be enough for all the needed works.

"The Marawi rehabilitation plan should be future-proof and include infrastructure for security against elements who would attempt to besiege the city anew," Poe said.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV urged all stakeholders to work together to heal, rebuild and create prosperity in the city, while Sen. Nancy Binay renewed her call for the inclusion of indigenous peoples and internally displaced persons in drafting the rehabilitation plan.

"By listening to our brothers and sisters who have been directly affected by the clashes, we ensure that our efforts match their needs and that they are truly represented in deciding on matters that will shape the future of Marawi City," Binay said.

Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña felt a mixture of happiness and sadness when Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced on Monday the termination of combat operations in the city.

"I am happy that the siege is over and people can go back to their respective places. The rehabilitation of the city can proceed at a dizzying pace hopefully. I am sad also because there is practically no house to go home to for the residents, including us at St.

26

Mary's Cathedral. It's going to be traumatic for some to see their former homes uninhabitable," said the prelate.

Foreign donors

China donated 47 brand new heavy equipment units worth P155 million and turned this over to the DPWH last Oct. 9.

Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said the donation – which includes eight units each of excavator, loader, dump truck and cement mixer; and five units each of compactor, tractor and bulldozer; and one container van – came with no strings attached.

He assured Filipinos that China is a friend and partner of the Philippines in its effort to rebuild and reconstruct the war-torn city.

"China has given these equipment and other humanitarian assistance, and I would like to emphasize with no strings attached, no preconditions attached. It is an act of friendship, it is an act of a good neighbor, it is also an act of supporting President Duterte and his government not only in his fight against terrorism but also in the reconstruction of Marawi," Zhao said.

The ambassador said he is pleased to learn that China is the first country to donate and deliver help for the rehabilitation efforts.

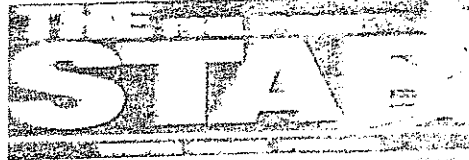
"We have a saying in China – when you do something good, do it timely. The equipment arrived at a time when construction of Marawi is about to begin. The donation is timely and they are going to be put to use immediately," Zhao added.

He congratulated the Philippine government and the AFP for the victorious anti-terror campaign in Marawi.

"It was a tough fight in an urban environment. Your determination, bravery and gallantry, your combat capabilities – you have proved yet again terrorism can be defeated and will be defeated," the ambassador said.

– With Paolo Romero, Alexis Romero, Pia Lee-Brago

26 October 2017



Page: 14

Aussie troops to train Phi counterparts in urban warfare

By JAIME LAUDE

Australia will train Filipino soldiers in urban warfare to combat the spread of Islamic extremism after months of fierce fighting against Maute militants in Marawi City, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced yesterday.

Lorenzana said Australia has offered to provide training based on the Philippines' needs and Australia's capabilities.

"At the outset, this includes airspace coordination, urban warfare and maritime operations," Lorenzana said in a joint press conference at Clark Field, Pampanga.

Australia's Minister of Defense Marise Payne said her government has made available a number of its special forces to train their counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We will go to the appropriate military bases as agreed with the Philippines' Armed Forces and the Philippine government to provide urban warfare training, to work with the Army and the Marines," Payne said on the sidelines of this year's Asian Defense Minister Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus).

Australia has since September been helping the AFP battle the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute group in Marawi by deploying two AP-3C Orion aircraft for surveillance while helping in information-gathering and analysis.

The Philippines on Monday

declared victory after a five-month battle that claimed more than 1,100 lives and destroyed large parts of Marawi.

While the victory ended immediate fears that the IS would establish a Southeast Asian base in Marawi, concerns remain about its longer-term intentions and capabilities for the region.

The Philippines and Australia signed a Defense Cooperation Program (DCP) that provides the mechanisms for military support, intelligence sharing and people-to-people exchanges.

Lorenzana said he and Payne earlier discussed various programs and activities aimed to strengthen defense cooperation between the two countries.

Australia has experience tackling the IS in Iraq and Syria and Payne said it was crucial the Philippines had the expertise to keep extremists at bay now that the key fight had been won.

Payne said the Australian forces would also have to learn from their Filipino counterparts how they were able to battle the Maute extremists in an entirely different warfare setting.

"What we have acquired (in Iraq), that we think it's important to share with the Philippines and we discussed it with Secretary Lorenzana. Equally, the Philippines Armed Forces have skills to share back to Australian forces as well... and it's very much

a two-way street," Payne said.

She said Canberra would immediately send teams composed of 80 troops to provide urban warfare counterterrorism training at Philippine military bases.

"The practical training the Australian Defense Force will provide will ensure the Philippines defense force is better able to counter the brutal tactics being employed by terrorists," Payne told reporters at Clark.

"Globally we have seen the effect of extremist ideology and terrorist threats on millions of civilians and it is alarming to see this disruption come to our region," she said.

Payne said the spread of IS-inspired terrorism was a direct threat to Australia and its interests, and Canberra was determined it "cannot establish a geographic foothold in the region."

Lorenzana welcomed Australia's "invaluable support," saying the military would use the assistance to replicate the training locally.

"While we need troops now to be trained on urban warfare, we also need to build our capacity to train our troops. Part of our program that we are going to do in the near future is to build our urban (warfare training) centers," Lorenzana said.

He said part of their discussion with Payne was the possibility of Filipino troops visiting combat training facilities in Australia.

Lorenzana said the urban warfare training to be provided

28

by Australia to local troops would form part of an overall program of the AFP in building up its own capacity and capability in fighting enemies of state in an urban setting.

"I think (Australia is) one of the biggest source of training programs for our people. I don't know the exact number, but I know I was a beneficiary of the Defense Cooperation Program way back then. We send a lot, I think second only to the United States," Lorenzana said.

AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the Australian anti-terror troops are in the country.

"There are Australian forces already in the country to train our forces in urban warfare," he said.

Padilla said the AFP has enough urban training but it has only few who are prepared for that kind of conflict.

"We do not lack urban warfare training per se but we have few forces who are prepared for that. We need to expand the number of people that we can train so that everyone is prepared," he said.

Meanwhile, Army chief Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay said there were no new reports of foreign terrorists slipping into the country following the defeat of the Maute extremists in Marawi.

Contain North Korea

In the same news conference, Payne called on ASEAN

member-states to maximize the pressure against North Korea in support of the sanctions being imposed against the hermit state to keep its destabilizing and provocative behavior in check.

Payne along with several other non-ASEAN member-states are in the country for the holding of the ADDM and ADDM Plus chaired by the Philippines.

"It is illegal. It is provocative. It is in breach of several UN Security Council resolutions. It is in breach of global agreements and international norms," Payne pointed out.

She said the Australian government has been strong in reaffirming its position that supports the UN Security Council in imposing the strongest possible sanctions on the North Korean regime being spearheaded by the US.

Australia, she said, has even imposed a number of "autonomous sanctions" on both individuals and entities from North Korea that will bring the strongest possible pressure to bear.

Payne did not elaborate on the "autonomous sanctions" but called on other states to do their share.

"We as an international community need to make it clear that their behavior is illegal. It is destabilizing and it is provocative. We stand strongly with the South Korean government in relation to that in terms of the position the US

has taken," Payne said, citing her recent visit to South Korea.

"I am encouraging all the parties, we have to maximize the pressure on the regime. I think it is important to maintain these as strong as possible," Payne said.

The ADDM on Monday issued a joint declaration calling on North Korea to adhere to the UN resolutions.

Lorenzana, chair of this year's ADDM and ADDM Plus meeting, said the Philippines and other ASEAN nationals who are in South Korea will be directly affected in the event conflict erupts within the Korean Peninsula.

He added all the ASEAN member-states are also concerned on the developing security situation in the Korean Peninsula.

Lorenzana agreed with Payne's assessment on the prevailing regional security issue, saying that the action of North Korea is illegal.

"If conflict erupts in the Korean Peninsula, aside from being near, we have a lot of problems for our Filipino nationals there and not only the Philippines. The whole other ASEAN member nations are already concerned about the dangerous, provocative behavior of North Korea and I agreed with Minister Payne that the action of North Korea is illegal," Lorenzana said. - With AFP, Emmanuel Tupas

25 October 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Australia to train Pinoy soldiers on urban warfare

BY VICTOR REYES

AROUND 80 Australian soldiers will soon train Filipino forces on urban warfare, which the Armed Forces lacked in responding to the attack launched by the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group in Marawi City.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne, in the country for the Asean Defense Ministers Meeting in Clark, Pampanga, said the Australian Defense Forces will train Filipino Army and Marine forces to address "challenges that are posed by modern-day terrorism.

"It's (a) very practical training by the ADF to be able to counter very

brutal tactics employed by terrorists," Payne said after meeting with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"This training will be conducted in Philippine military bases. It will involve a range of skills related to combat in urban environment. It's made up of mobile training teams, approximately 80 (troops) in total," said Payne.

"They will go to the appropriate military bases, as agreed with the Philippine Armed Forces and the Philippine government, to provide the urban warfare training, to work with the (Philippine) Army and the Marines, and the focus will be on conducting urban

See AUSTRALIA > Page B3

AUSTRALIA

operation," she added.

The battle for Marawi ended on Monday with authorities saying 920 militants, 165 troops and police and at least 45 civilians were killed in the conflict, which displaced more than 300,000 people.

Australia, along with the United

States, Singapore and China, provided weaponry and technical support, including surveillance aircraft, during the five-month battle.

Payne first offered the training during a meeting with Lorenzana in September while Filipino troops were still battling the Maute Group whose members laid siege to Marawi City on May 23.

President Duterte declared the liberation of the city last October 17. On Monday, Lorenzana announced the termination of combat operation as troops seized the last rebel lair.

Lorenzana said there will also be airspace cooperation training.

"In addition, Australia has already offered to provide trainings based on the Philippines' needs and Australian capabilities. At the outset, this includes airspace coordination, urban warfare, and maritime operations, among others," he said.

Lorenzana acknowledged that the fight against terrorism "cannot be addressed by one country alone, and we are very much appreciative of Australia's support to our counter-terrorism program."

AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Australian forces are already in the country for the training but declined to say where the training would be held.

"This is a welcome development because of experiences that we need,

because of the kind of combat environment that we need to face in the future such as in Marawi. So, learning more about this kind of environment will enhance our capacity and capability," said Padilla.

The military had admitted that most of its troops are trained on jungle warfare, which contributed to the prolonged Marawi armed conflict.

"We do not lack urban warfare training per se, but we have only a few that are prepared for urban warfare. So we need to expand the number of people with training so that everyone is prepared," said Padilla.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the US and Singapore have also offered urban warfare training to the Philippines.

"Actually, these trainings are two-fold. They are happening not only because they are going to teach us but we're also sharing what we learned, our experience. They (foreign forces) are also going to learn," said Año. - *With Reuters*

25 October 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 66

US touts military ties in PH as Duterte courts Russia, China

THE timing of US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' trip to the Philippines this week couldn't have been better, coming just as it celebrated a victory against Islamist militants in Marawi City -- with a critical dose of help from the US military.

But as Mattis met President Duterte on Tuesday, five Russian warships were parked off the Philippines and Moscow was preparing to formally hand over thousands of assault rifles, a million rounds of ammunition and 20 army trucks at a public ceremony on Wednesday.

Duterte, known for his strident anti-American rhetoric, has made no secret of his plans to cultivate ties with America's rivals, Russia and China. Those efforts appear to be starting to bear fruit.

Just before he met Mattis, Duterte sat down on Tuesday with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu who, like Mattis, was attending a gathering of Asian defense ministers at Clark, Pampanga.

Shoigu signed two military deals, including the procurement of unspecified equipment.

On Wednesday, Duterte was scheduled to visit a Russian anti-submarine ship, the Admiral Pantalejev, docked in Manila.

US Ambassador Sung Kim played down any US concern about Duterte's outreach to China and Russia and noted that the United States, a former colonial power, was the country's only treaty ally, with far deeper ties in the Philippines.

"I'm not really threatened by this notion that China or Russia are providing some military equipment to the Philippines," Kim told a small group of reporters traveling with Mattis.

"We have been providing very important equipment to the Philippines for many, many years. The fact that the Chinese and the Russians have provided some rifles, I'm not sure is really such a cause for concern for the United States."

Duterte's often profanity-laden tirades against the United States have become his trademark during his year-old presidency, and he has chided Washington for treating his country "like a dog," despite the longstanding US assistance.

Still, Duterte's rhetoric has been inconsistent, and he warmly greeted visiting Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in August, calling himself a "humble friend"

of the United States at the time.

On Tuesday, he cautiously kept to scripted dialogue at the start of his meeting with Mattis, as he welcomed him to the Philippines and spoke warmly of ties.

"I want to be (as) politically correct as possible and I want to be understood. So reading this speech will be good," he said before reporters were escorted out of the room.

Ahead of a visit by U.S. President Donald Trump to the Philippines, the US envoy cited an improvement in "tone and substance" in bilateral ties over the 10 months since he's been in his post.

"President Duterte has made clear that even as he pursues improved relations with countries like China and Russia, he will continue to focus on making sure that the US-Philippines alliance remains strong," Kim said.

MARAWI OPERATION

The same day that Mattis landed in the Philippines, Manila announced the end of five months of military operations in Marawi City against the terrorist Maute Group, after a fierce and unfamiliar urban war that marked the country's biggest security crisis in years.

Mattis, on his flight to the Philippines, commended Manila on the operation and on Tuesday discussed ways to deepen US-Philippines military ties in talks with the Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"It was a tough fight," Mattis said during his flight, adding he thought the Philippines had sent "a very necessary message to the terrorists."

Kim said the US military assistance made a "huge difference" in the battle in Marawi, particularly its intelligence support, including with the deployment of Gray Eagle and P-3 Orion aircraft.

"I think all of us were surprised by the extent of infiltration by the terrorists into Marawi City," he said.

"When you encounter a situation like that, you obviously need good intelligence to be able to target key areas and I think that's where our support was quite critical."

On Monday night, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the US technical support "tilted the balance" because "we had a very hard grasp of the situation in the early days" until information flowed and helped defeat the militants. -- Reuters

31

25 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Intel appreciation could have shortened Marawi war - Año

By THE PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY

If there's anything that the military could have done differently in the five-month battle for the liberation of Marawi City against the Maute Group terrorists, it would be in intelligence appreciation.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)
Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año



made this statement when asked on what particular adjustments the military could have made to shorten or made the Marawi City campaign less costly or prolonged.

Around 920 terrorists were killed since the campaign in Marawi City started in May 23 while 165 troopers made the ultimate sacrifice in the course of the five-month campaign.

"Siguro yung tinatawag nating appreciation sa intelligence information, marami nang mga dumating na information but we're busy running

after terrorists in Sulu (and) Basilan in Maguindanao, so nagkulang tayo ng appreciation nathis bunch of Maute-ISIS holed somewhere in Butig and Piagapo, they did the unthinkable which is occupy Marawi, yun nagkulang tayo sa appreciation," he said.

And if they have time to do this, Año said the AFP could have prepared and deployed more troops and equipment to counter the terrorists aside from employing commanders skillful in the use of intelligence and developing assets in the conflict area.

97

25 October 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 01

Marawi situation starts to normalize

BY VICTOR REYES

THE security situation in Marawi City has started to normalize, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said yesterday, a day after the military terminated combat operations against the terrorist Maute Group.

“The situation in Marawi now is going back to normal... There is no reported fighting as of this time,” he said.

“What we’re having now are damage assessments. We also still continue the physical clearing. Physical clearing is not actually enemy clearing. These are clearing of bombs, IEDs (improvised enemy)” said Brawner.

Brawner said soldiers fired weapons in some areas, like canals and tunnels. “These are meant to scare and force them to come out (if there are still some terrorists left). But no one came out. It appears that all of them are already dead,” he said.

Año said the Maute Group is practically dead. “I’m confident they’ve been wiped out.”

He said the Maute Group had 250 members when they attacked the city on May 23. The number increased due to recruitment. He said the Maute members promised their recruits P15,000 monthly salary and P30,000 if they win

explosive devices) that might have been left in the area,” said Año

He said there might be unexploded bombs, or bombs dropped during air strikes that did not explode.

“If those will be touched by the civilians, that’s dangerous, catastrophic,” he said.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military’s Joint Task Force Ranao based in Marawi City, said soldiers continue to recover IEDs.

“Earlier today, some recovered bombs were detonated by our EODs (explosive and ordnance disposal) ...There are no longer armed engagements (with the

war in Marawi.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said: “The Maute family is practically wiped out... I think the Mautes are finished for the moment. Maybe the other family members who are young now, we don’t know if they are going to follow foot steps of their siblings,” he said.

Lorenzana said security forces are focusing their attention on the fight against other Islamic State-inspired groups, including the Abu Sayyaf and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

Año said sniper rifles donated by the

33

Chinese government have downed a number of Maute men.

“They’re very effective,” Año said, referring to the scores of sniper rifles donated by China last June.

Lorenzana said the defense and military establishment received 90 sniper rifles and 3,000 assault rifles from China last June. Earlier this month, China gave 3,000 M4 rifles to the military.

IDENTIFYING BOMBS

Teachers on Tuesday gave families returning to Marawi a course

on how to identify unexploded bombs in their homes and warned them to stay clear.

The teachers taught children and their parents how to recognize live mortar shells, grenades, aircraft rockets and IEDs in their villages.

Security forces used artillery bombardment and air strikes to flush out the Maute who endured 154 days of the offensive by stockpiling weapons, including bombs.

Warnings from the teachers included drawings of inquisitive children hammering bombs and trying to set them on fire.

“This helps us parents to understand and tell our children not to

touch or get near the bombs,” said Sobaida Sidic, a housewife attending the training.

Authorities said 920 militants, 165 troops and police and at least 45 civilians were killed in the conflict, which displaced more than 300,000 people.

Lominog Manoga, a principal at a school in Marawi overseeing the training, said it was important to teach people the risks.

President Duterte declared Marawi City liberated last week, even though fighting was not actually over. On Sunday, he said it was important to be vigilant because no country could escape Islamic State’s “clutches of evil” – *With Reuters*

25 October 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 10

New Air Force chief vows 'top speed' in achieving goals

**BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR
AND VICTOR REYES**

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday told the members of the Philippine Air Force to continue to perform their duties well and to be prepared for threats like terrorism and insurgency.

Duterte, at the Air Force change of command ceremony at the Air Force City in Clark, Pampanga, also said he expects the Air Force to continue providing good service under the leadership of its new commander, Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr.

He acknowledged the reforms that newly retired Maj. Gen. Edgar

Fallorina implemented in the Air Force, including the reactivation of the Tactical Operations Command and the Air Defense Command.

Kintanar, in his acceptance speech, vowed an Air Force that is transformed in capabilities, empowered in human resources, is agile, flexible and integrated in operations, and mission credible.

"This is the direction we want the Air Force to proceed and to pursue – that we not only move to speed but to go at top speed. In fact, top speed is going to be our new way of achieving our ends," said Kintanar.

Kintanar, the outgoing commander of the AFP Western Command based in Puerto Princesa

City, succeeded Fallorina who is due to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Wednesday next week.

Duterte, in his speech, acknowledged the contributions of the Air Force, from the aerial reconnaissance and maritime patrol missions at the West Philippine Sea, the Benham Rise, and other parts of the Philippine territory, to the support they provided during the military operation in Mindanao including Marawi City, and the role they played in humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations in calamity-stricken areas.

The President opted to read his prepared speech during the event.

25 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 6

Soldiers, policemen receive awards for role in Marawi

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Soldiers and policemen, who were on the front line during the five-month offensives against Daesh-inspired fighters in Marawi City, were awarded by the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) chief over the weekend.

Last October 21, 18 personnel of the 2nd and 3rd Scout Ranger Battalions and the Joint Task Group Bakal were accorded the Gold Cross Medal by AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez Jr.

The soldiers were recognized for their conspicuous gallantry in action, courage, dedication, and commitment during the conduct of the close-quarter battle with more or less 1,000 members of the Maute-Abu Sayyaf Group-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria for almost five months in Marawi City.

On Sunday, five soldiers of the 10th Infantry Battalion and the Joint Task Group Vector were awarded the Gold Cross Medals. The same award was also given to Police Senior Inspector Seth Mark Alob and Police Officer 3 Isah Sangcad of the PNP.

Police Superintendent Rolando

Anduyan and Police Superintendent Danilo Bacas received the Silver Cross Medal from Galvez for meritorious and valuable achievement rendered while serving as Joint Task Group PNP commander and asst. commander, who led the numerous accomplishments of the PNP during the Marawi crisis.

The command plaque was awarded to Brig. Gen. Vinluan, commander of the Joint Task Force Vector; Anduyan, commander of the Joint Task Group, and Brig. Gen. Felicisimo Budiongan, commander of the JTG-Bakal, and other battalion commanders for their sterling leadership while leading their troops during the battle.

The five-month stand-off yielded to the neutralization of more than 900 terrorists, the rescue of 1,780 hostages, and recovery of more than 800 high-powered firearms and almost 2,000 unexploded ordnances, improvised explosive devices and booby traps of the terrorists.

“Congratulations, Marawi troopers, for making the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Filipinos proud. Your commitment and gallantry liberated the City of Marawi and the Maranaos from terrorism,” Galvez said.

“I thank you for your service and sacrifices. I am so proud of you all,” he added.

36

25 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A2

Terror, insurgency threats remain, Duterte warns

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

CLARK, Pampanga: President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday urged government forces not to let their guard down because the threats of terrorism and insurgency remain, a view shared by an official of the Asian Development Bank.

"Rejoin our troops to continue performing their duties well, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao, and there are persisting threats of terrorism and [insurgency]," Duterte said in his speech during the change of command ceremony of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

He issued the warning a day after the military ended its combat operations against the Maute terror group that laid siege to Marawi City.

The President had said he would not lift martial law "until the last terrorist is taken out."

The final military offensives in Marawi led to the killing of three top terrorists — Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute and Malaysian Dr. Mahamud Ahmad.

Duterte said the Islamic State-inspired terrorists could still launch retaliatory attacks against government security forces.

Yesterday, the President recognized "the valor and the sacrifices"

of soldiers who were killed and wounded in action.

"Rest assured that the Philippines is committed to promote the welfare of all PAF personnel and their loved ones. That you have left your families and the comfort of your homes to serve the country is truly praiseworthy," Duterte said.

"Indeed, the Philippines and our people are indebted to you because of the sacrifices you have made every single day," he added.

Continuing problem

Also on Tuesday, Asian Development Bank Organizational Resilience Head Andrew Clinton said terrorism in the Philippines and other countries will continue unless the root cause of the problem is addressed.

"Unfettered development happens and distribution of wealth and access to power and justice happens these issues will continue not just

in Mindanao but throughout the world. Until you address the root cause of these issues, you're going to have them," Clinton said during yesterday's *Brewing @ AIM* Conversations with Thought Leaders held at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati.

Clinton warned that while the government had defeated the terrorists who seized Marawi, the problem of terrorism will continue.

"Does that mean terrorism stopped in Mindanao? Absolutely not because those underlying issues have not been addressed like the development issues, economic issues," the bank official said.

He explained that most people from marginalized communities sometimes join armed groups for lack of better options.

"The people growing up there really have no better options sometimes than to join a group to have some status, some income. The feeling of belongingness is very strong especially if you are from a marginalized community," Clinton said, adding that issues in Mindanao are mostly "economic based."

The siege in Marawi went on for five months but bombings are constantly in Cotabato, Davao and other parts of Mindanao. These are terror attacks. Right now, they have just been beaten in Marawi and people are recognizing that this is a growing issue," he said.

Other groups

With the defeat of the Maute group in Marawi, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Tuesday said the military will train its guns on other terrorist groups based in Mindanao.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), he said, will focus on the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Central Mindanao and the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu.

"The Maute family is practically wiped out. The seven sons of the Mautes — Farhana and Cayamora — were all killed in Marawi. So I think the Mautes are finished at the moment," Lorenzana told reporters.

However, he admitted that the "younger ones" may follow the footsteps of their elder siblings Abdullah, Otuoh, Maddie and Omar Khayam.

But Lorenzana said the military is more concerned on the threats posed by the BIFF and the Abu Sayyaf, which had carried out bombings and kidnappings in Mindanao.

"The Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu [is] still intact. The Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan is already decimated because Mr. Isnilon, for some reason, brought a lot of his people to Butig and Marawi [in Lanao del Sur] and they were all killed there," he said with.

**ANNA LEAH E. GONZALES
AND DEMPSEY REYES**

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

97

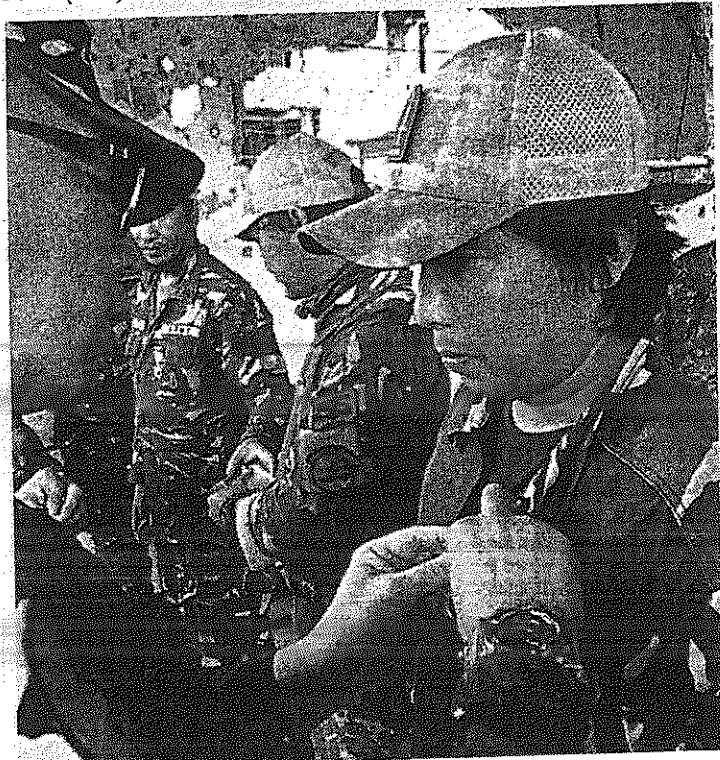
October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

Soldiers, lawmen cited for gallantry in Marawi

SHARIFFAGUAK, Maguindanao: Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), who were on the front-line during the five-month offensive against Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City, were cited for gallantry on Saturday.



GOLD CROSS Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., commander of the WestMinCom pins a medal on one of the soldiers who saw action in the five-month Marawi siege. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) awarded the Gold Cross to 18 personnel of the 2nd and 3rd Scout Ranger Battalions and Joint Task Group Bakal.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, WestMinCom spokesman, said the soldiers were recognized for gallantry in action, courage, dedication and commitment during almost five months of fighting at close quarters with about 1,000 members of the Maute Group in Marawi City.

"Congratulations, Marawi troops, for making the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Filipinos proud. Your commitment and gallantry liberated the City of Marawi and the Maranaos from terrorism," Galvez said.

On Sunday, five soldiers of the 10th Infantry Battalion and the Joint Task Group Vector were also awarded the Gold Cross.

The same Gold Cross were also given to Police Senior Insp. Seth Mark Alob and Police Officer-3 Isah Sangcad.

Police Senior Supt. Rolando Anduyan and Police Supt. Danilo Bacas also received the Silver Cross from Galvez, for meritorious and valuable

achievement rendered while serving as Joint Task Group PNP commander and assistant commander, who led the PNP during the Marawi siege.

The Command Plaque was awarded to Brig. Gen. Vinluan, commander of Joint Task Force Vector; Police Senior Supt. Anduyan, commander of the Joint Task Group; Brig. Gen. Budiongan, commander of JTG Bakal; and other battalion commanders for their leadership while leading their troops during battle.

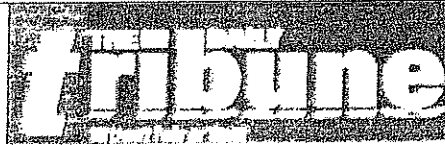
The five-month stand-off ended with the neutralization of 920 terrorists, rescue of 1,780 hostages and recovery of more than 800 high-powered firearms and almost 2,000 unexploded ordinances, improvised explosive devices and booby traps.

The awarding ceremony became more jubilant when the WestMinCom Chief announced that Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana informed him of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's DNA test result on a siege leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

"I am pleased to announce that Secretary Lorenzana informed me, it is Isnilon Hapilon. We finally got him. He is officially dead," Galvez said.

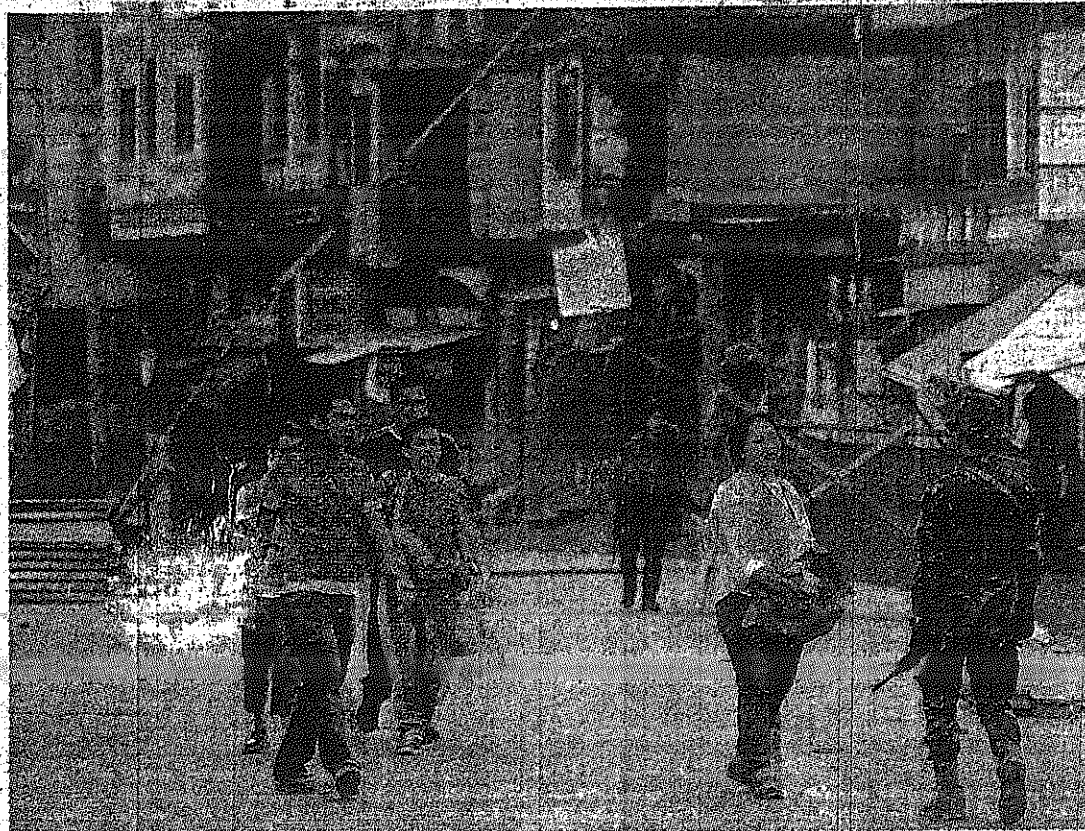
JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

25 October 2017



Page: 1

Aussies, Chinese first responders after IS defeat



Quintine greets residents A soldier (right) talks to a resident returning to inspect her home near the battle area of Maipongi in Marawi, on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday, a day after the military declared the fighting over. Residents of a southern Philippine city where Islamic State supporters waged a brutal five-month battle began returning home yesterday, but gunfire greeted them as soldiers scoured the streets for remaining militants. AFP

By Mario J. Mallari and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

Fresh from crushing the Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists led by the Maute group in Marawi City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) intends to further boost its urban warfare capability through training – initially with Australia.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday Australia will

train the military in urban warfare under a cooperation agreement aimed at dealing with the threats of “modern-day” terrorism.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne confirmed Lorenzana’s announcement during a news conference before the start of the Asian Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM)-Plus meeting in Clark, Pampanga.

China, meanwhile,

turned over through Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua 47 units of heavy equipment for the rehabilitation and rebuilding of Marawi City.

“I’m glad China is the first country to donate and deliver rehabilitation equipment to the Philippines. There is a Chinese saying, that is, when you want to do something good, then do it timely,” Zhao said in a speech.

“These equipment arrived just at the time when the reconstruction of Marawi City is about to begin,” he said.

“Truly, the fight against global terror cannot be addressed by one country alone, and we are very much appreciative of Australia’s support for our counter-terrorism program,” Lorenzana said.

Australia deployed spy planes in Marawi City to assist the AFP in

Turn to page 2

From page 1

intelligence gathering during the 154-day siege laid by the IS-Maute group.

"In addition, Australia has already offered to provide trainings based on the Philippines' needs and Australia's capabilities. At the outset, this includes airspace coordination, urban warfare, and maritime operations, among others," Lorenzana said.

Payne said the training activity was part of Canberra's efforts to stem the spread of the Arab-based terrorist group, which in the course, also threatens Australia.

"The spread of Daesh (another term for IS) is a threat to regional security, including the security of Australia. We recognize that no single country can address the threat of terrorism on its own," she said.

"We know that to prevent its spread, all countries in the region must work cooperatively, which is why Australia is committed to supporting the Philippines in this task," she added.

In fact, Australian troops are already in the country for the urban warfare training.

Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, confirmed the presence of the Australian teams in Manila but he refused to disclose further information due to security and operational concerns.

He said the Australian trainers will train about a battalion of Filipino soldiers.

"There are Australian forces already in the country to train our forces on urban warfare," confirmed Padilla.

Payne said the urban warfare training would "ensure the Philippines Armed Forces are able to defeat the challenges presented by modern-day terrorism."

"The practical training the ADF will provide will ensure the Philippines defence force is better able to counter the brutal tactics being employed by terrorists," she said.

Payne said about 80 ADF (Australian Defence Force) mobile teams will visit military camps to train Army and Marine soldiers.

The AFP has acknowledged that the Marawi City siege was a huge challenge for the Filipino troops who are trained generally in guerrilla warfare, and are still starting to train in urban setup or on heavily-built up areas.

"The practical training the Australian Defense Force will provide will ensure the Philippines defense force is better able to counter the brutal tactics being employed by terrorists," she said.

"Globally we have seen the effect of extremist ideology and terrorist threats on millions of civilians and it is alarming to see this disruption come to our region," she added.

Payne said the spread of Islamic State-inspired terrorism was a direct threat to Australia and its interests, and Canberra was determined it "cannot establish a geographic foothold in the region."

China's timely aid
Zhao stressed that the donation is timely and will surely be beneficial.

"At the very beginning of your campaign against IS-inspired terrorists, the Chinese government has made it very clear that China stands together with the Philippines. It is not only because combating terrorism is the shared responsibility of all nations, but also, and more importantly, that we are close neighbors, partners, and friends," he said.

Zhao noted that China already delivered two batches of rifles and ammunition to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, with the third batch to be delivered in the first half of 2018.

Of this donation, total value amounts to P800 million. Cash donation for the purpose of humanitarian assistance, meanwhile, has amounted to P95 million.

"We are glad that the rifles we donated have been proved to be

effective," he said.

On October 17, President Rodrigo Duterte himself declared Marawi's liberation. With this, Zhao extended his congratulations to the government, the AFP in particular, for their "victory" against terrorists.

"It was a tough fight in an urban environment, but through your determination and bravery, gallantry and combat capabilities, you have proved yet again that terrorism can be defeated and will be defeated," he said.

Zhao said he noticed that the government has been quick in planning the rebuilding and recovery of Marawi City.

"I am fully confident that under the wise leadership of President Duterte, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Marawi City will be a complete success," he said.

Marawi picks up pieces
Residents of Marawi city began returning home but gunfire greeted them as soldiers scoured devastated neighborhoods for remaining militants.

Security officials announced last Monday that the fighting, which claimed more than 1,100 lives and left the eastern half of Marawi in ruins, had ended following a final clash in a mosque in which dozens of gunmen were killed.

The militants had occupied Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 in what President Rodrigo Duterte and security analysts said was a bid to establish a Southeast Asian base for IS.

The campaign to oust them turned into the Philippines' longest urban war, forcing about 400,000 people to flee their homes as the militants defied near daily bombing raids by hiding in basements, tunnels and mosques.

"We are afraid but we want to check on our houses," Jamaliah Lomontong, a village official in her 40s, told *Agence France Presse* on Tuesday as she and some relatives walked into their neighborhood

near where the main fighting occurred.

Lomontong said her house had survived, although it had been looted.

"Anything easy to take away has gone - televisions, laptops," she said.

Only a few dozen civilians could be seen on Tuesday morning on the outskirts of the mostly destroyed eastern half of Marawi, where regular bursts of gunfire and occasional explosions could still be heard.

However the sounds of war did not mean there was renewed fighting, according to Colonel Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Marawi forces.

He told AFP they were due to soldiers going through buildings looking for militants who may still be hiding, while troops were also detonating bombs that the gunmen had planted.

"It's possible that there were some (militants) left behind. In every war, that is the SOP (standard operating procedure)," Brawner told AFP.

"So the firing is part of the mopping operations, because if there are holes, tunnels (in buildings), then the troops fire first into the hole before they check with their flashlights," he said.

'Joy and sadness'
In the western half of the city, which largely escaped the fighting, hundreds of residents had begun returning.

"I feel a mixture of joy and sadness," businessman Gonaranko Mapandi Jr, 46, told AFP as he stood close to a military checkpoint.

"I'm happy because we are able to return. But I'm very sad at what happened to my city."

Some small shops selling daily household items and food, known locally as sari-sari stores, had reopened.

However the authorities said the military had yet to give the all-clear for residents to return because of safety concerns.

AFP

25 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

Davao peace panel to tap 3 NPA commanders in talks

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY - The Davao City Peace Committee (DC PEACE) has identified three local commanders of the New People's Army (NPA) who could be tapped for possible localized peace talks between the local government and the rebel group.

This was disclosed by Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio who revealed that DC PEACE will be reaching out to the three commanders operating in and around the city in a bid to jumpstart the peace negotiations.

Carpio said that the committee will be informing the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) about the city's own plans to forge peace with the Communist group.

But Carpio said she was not optimistic about getting OPAPP's cooperation as she had earlier read an interview

that Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza gave wherein he averred that he was not encouraging the conduct of localized peace talks.

"Initially our move is to write a letter to OPAPP and explain what we are doing here," she said.

Carpio refused to identify the three NPA leaders until DC PEACE is able to get their consent to participate in the talks.

According to Carpio, DC PEACE has agreed that there was no law that prohibited the local government from entering into a peace agreement with any group.

The local government is also working under the general welfare clause of the Local Government Code, she added.

The Mayor said that the committee was willing to speak with representatives of the three commands operating in the city.

The committee met for the first

time this week after the committee was created under Executive Order No. 34.

Another issue that was raised was the jurisdictions where the NPA operated, which overlapped with other LGUs.

Sta. Cruz and Davao City belong to one area, while Cotabato and (Davao City's) Marilog district are in another area. Davao del Norte and Davao City from the Paquibato side are in another area where the NPA operates.

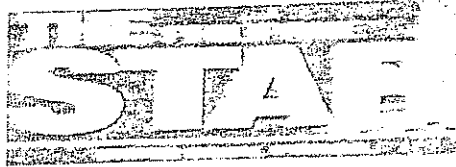
"There are concerns like that," she said.

Carpio also underscored that the local government was not seeking the surrender of the NPAs at this point, but just an opportunity for everybody "take talk and see what we can do."

The next meeting is scheduled on Nov. 17.

"Earlier, kanina ang usapan was just to start with the three identified commanders in Davao City," she said.

25 October 2017



Page: 15

Ex-soldier held for beating up mother

A drunk former soldier was arrested for beating up his 55-year-old mother in Quezon City on Sunday.

Police said Bernardo Valerio, 34, was dismissed from the military service in 2012.

Superintendent Danilo Mendoza, Talipapa police station 3 commander, said Valerio was drinking with his friends in front of their house in Barangay Pasong Tamo when his mother, Amelita, chided him at around 8:30 p.m.

"The mother asked him to stop drinking and go inside the house," Mendoza said.

Instead of heeding, Valerio got mad and punched his mother, who fell to the ground.

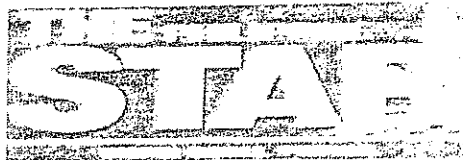
Amelita was able to run when Valerio went inside the house to get a kitchen knife.

The suspect was apprehended by barangay watchmen. Bystanders brought Amelita to the Quezon City General

Hospital for treatment of head injuries. - Emmanuel Tupas

42

25 October 2017



Page: 14

SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Heroes, heels

The latest Social Weather Stations survey showed more Filipinos doubting police claims that suspects killed in the war on drugs were shot when they resisted arrest or "nanlaban."

While the Philippine National Police is suffering from declining public trust, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are getting the hero's treatment all over the country.

Both the PNP and AFP carried out missions on orders of the same president and commander-in-chief, who takes a tough stance on security matters. Both have killed in the name of public safety (for the AFP, nearly 1,000 terrorists taken out in Marawi). Both have lost personnel in carrying out their missions.

Why is one organization seen as a hero and the other a heel? This is even more noteworthy considering that the AFP operated with the entire Mindanao under martial law, imposed by a man accused of having dictatorial tendencies.

The PNP's Oplan Tokhang and Double Barrel reaped endless criticism from the international community. In Marawi, on the other hand, the AFP received a lot of help from the United States and Australia, and commendation all around after the end of combat was declared.

Perhaps the PNP can pick up some pointers from the AFP on working in a democracy, especially one as rambunctious as ours.

One is defining a precise target. The battle lines were clearly drawn in Marawi: soldiers against terrorists. Even when parts of the city were pulverized by the AFP's aerial and ground bombardment, blame was heaped on the Mautes who started all the trouble and used civilians, private homes and mosques as shields.

In the case of Tokhang and Double Barrel, the PNP often turned the people into its enemy and the battle lines became murky. In case the PNP didn't notice, the "bleeding hearts" were generally silent when notorious characters like the Parojinogs and their minions were gunned down. But how do you sell the idea of poor teenagers as threats warranting neutralization?

As surveys particularly in Metro Manila indicated, people no longer felt safe even in their own homes - which defeats the purpose of fighting the drug menace in the name of public safety.



There's an old saying about fighting the drug menace, which the PNP might find useful: save the user, jail the pusher. Also, if well-connected drug dealers in the top five most wanted list of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) are mollycoddled by authorities while impoverished penny-ante neighborhood pushers are brutally executed, erosion of public support for the campaign is inevitable.

Another thing that the AFP did right in Marawi was to be transparent about the effort, without compromising battle plans.

This included admitting when it made grievous mistakes, such as the death of soldiers in friendly fire. There were clear explanations about why the battle was taking time (the terrorists used human shields and holed out in mosques; snipers had to be taken out one by one; urban warfare is more complicated). They admitted running out of missiles and ammunition, which compelled them to turn to treaty ally the US for help.

In the case of the PNP, its first reaction to accusations of summary executions committed by its members was almost always denial, instead of admission that the campaign was vulnerable to abuse. The admission should have been accompanied by a promise that erring personnel would be caught and punished and the system would be refined to discourage abuses.

Surveys indicate that people see the drug menace as a serious problem requiring a strong response. But the take-no-prisoners approach cannot be applied in all cases.

This brings us to another difference: the battle for Marawi was in more competent hands.

When Director General Ronald dela Rosa retires on Jan. 21 next year, President Duterte should pick a PNP chief with more credentials than just loyalty. Especially since it looks like Duterte is just waiting for an excuse to announce the failure of his experiment to let the PDEA handle the drug war on its own. After Du30 says "I told you so," the PNP can then wade back into the war with a vengeance.

It hasn't helped that there is no regular secretary of the interior to supervise the PNP chief. The AFP, on the other hand, is reporting to a retired military officer, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who has the respect of his peers.

Even if interior chief Catalino Cuy, a retired police general, is familiar with police work, his authority over the PNP is diminished by his serving in an acting capacity and the fact that Dela Rosa has the ear of the President.

Finally, it might be useful for the PNP to remember that it is fighting two battles: one against criminality, and another for people's hearts and minds.

Dela Rosa's failure to feel the public pulse was evident in his unfortunate comment about "ingrates" who did not appreciate what the PNP was doing for the people.

The AFP, possibly because of its lead role in counterinsurgency, has a keen understanding of the need to win hearts and minds. This was at play as the AFP fought the Mautes while at the same time showing a different brand of martial law.

Some groups have accused the AFP of human rights violations in Marawi, but the complaints haven't gained traction. One noteworthy aspect of Duterte's martial law is the absence of comparisons, even after five months of fierce fighting, to military rule under his idol Ferdinand Marcos.

The battle for Marawi and the enforcement of martial law in Mindanao have in fact earned the AFP such a level of public trust that it is now expected to stand in the way of any attempt to use the military as an instrument of political oppression or to perpetuate anyone in power.

The AFP is currently seen as the Armed Forces of the People. It's not too late for the PNP to aim for similar recognition.

25 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A14

Marawi City reconstruction is a national imperative

IF the duopoly that dominates the polling market wants to poll an issue with a 100 percent approval, there is one available—the sentiment of Filipinos on rebuilding Marawi City from the ruins. From the A to the E economic classes, from Batanes to Tawi-tawi, from the Filipinos in the deserts of the Middle East to the Filipinos doing seasonal work in areas near the Arctic, the sentiment will be the same: Go, Go, Rebuild Marawi City.

There is no single issue that unites Filipinos more than the need to rebuild places visited by calamities. The cause—natural or man-made—does not matter. It is not in our culture and tradition to leave wrecked places, wrecked. The special circumstances that caused the ruin of Marawi City vest a special urgency to the rebuilding effort.

From a personal realm, I am willing to give up my meager SSS pension (the only amount a sick man can spare) and contribute it to the cause of rebuilding Marawi City. The public-private realm will be just as supportive. More than 26 years ago, after the Pinatubo eruption, the will of the public and private sectors on the issue of re-



MIDWEEK COMMENTS

MARLEN V. RONQUILLO

building ravaged communities was tested. There were divergent views on the rebuilding strategy (see the Kelvin Rodolfo-Jose Soriquez dispute on how to handle the civil engineering component), yes. But on the need to rebuild, there was a firm consensus to rebuild the devastated Central Luzon areas. Even the anomalies that attended the rebuilding did not slow down the rehab efforts.

The reconstruction costs, official corruption and all, have been worth it, given the current productivity of the lahar-swamped areas that were once considered unredeemable wasteland.

Congress is a willing partner

Our Congress has many negatives. In the public esteem, it ranks very low and that low approval and trust have been there from time

immemorial. The Napoles scam, as it unraveled, made the public think the worst of Congress. But even with its many negatives, it has one saving grace. Unlike the parsimony of congresses in the developed world—think of a Republican-controlled US Congress that wants to cut back health care to the poor and cut taxes to benefit the Top 1 percent—there is no such cruelty in the mind-set of the Philippine Congress, then and now.

Coming to the rescue of calamity-visited areas has been a bright, shining light of all Philippine Congresses.

If the budgetary need of the rebuilding is P10 billion, a bipartisan, bicameral vote to provide that P10 billion, will be there. A vote for an additional expenditure, should the original budget run short, will also be there.

Each and every member of Congress is aware that the Philippines is part of the Ring of Fire. Each and every member operates with the particular mind-set that on the issue of extending support to victims of tragedies, the guiding principle is “no man is an island.”

Bond floats, through which

the DU30 government plans to raise at least P30 billion, are being planned for before 2018 to shore up the Marawi rebuilding funds. Given the favorable environment for state-issue bonds, a P30 billion bond issuance will be snapped up in days.

An adequate budgetary allocation will nudge other sectors to chip in

The 2017 winner of the economic Nobel, Richard H. Thaler, made his mark on his writing on “nudges.” So what would “nudge” the private sector, the multilateral institutions and the donor agencies/countries to help in the cause of rebuilding Marawi City?

The answer is the willingness of the Philippine Congress to take the lead in funding the rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts. The flow of willing money from the private sector and international aid institutions comes after the first funding moves of Congress. A large allocation from Congress will definitely push these institutions outside of our official government to also help

► RonquilloA5

and help substantially.

We saw that kind of support system after the Pinatubo eruption, the Yolanda rebuilding work and we will surely see that in the Marawi City reconstruction efforts.

A Marshall Plan-like rebuilding is a must

The rebuilding of war-ravaged Western Europe after World War II got its name from George Marshall, the chief proponent. The 80th Congress of the US allocated \$13 billion (\$132 billion today) which was used for a comprehensive, well-thought-out, well-executed and well-managed rebuilding and reconstruction plan.

The pre-eminent role of Germany today as the largest and most diversified European economy would not have been possible without the miracle work on Germany of the Marshall Plan.

Rebuilding Marawi should likewise be comprehensive and thorough, not like the half-baked, insincere effort that was the Yolanda rehabilitation program. A comprehensive rehab work will help limit the impact of the terrorists' propaganda and recruitment efforts. A failed, ill-executed plan will be the terrorists' Exhibit A of the claim the government does not care about Muslims and that Muslim Mindanao will be better off under a caliphate.

One last thing: The rehab efforts should be free from political grifters and opportunists who will always try to lobby for their contractors, suppliers and the rehab personnel. Professionals in, politicians out. The success of the Marshall Plan rested in part on the dedication and professionalism—and the long view—of the globalists Ivy leaguers who administered the Plan.

25 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 10

A national 'Brigada' for Marawi's schools

BRIGADA Eskwela is the annual program of the Department of Education (DepEd) to prepare the nation's schools for the opening of the school year in June. Built around the concept of shared community responsibility, it prepares the nation's schoolrooms, facilities, and grounds, with the help of the people of the community, including business and civic groups. They join in a week of actual physical work, repairing windows, painting walls, making every effort to make the surroundings conducive to learning by the community's children.

In Marawi this month and the next, the Brigada Eskwela concept will be put to use but on an unprecedented scale. Marawi may be part of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which has its own regional secretary of education, but in the wake of the massive destruction it suffered in the last five months, the national Department of Education will be leading a program of repair and restoration for all that was destroyed in Marawi's schools during the fighting between government forces and the Maute group.

The DepEd recovery plan – "Brigada Eskwela sa Marawi" – will focus on the physical repair of the battered school buildings. Donor institutions are welcome to "adopt" a damaged school.

"We are inviting the whole country," Secretary Leonor Briones said. "It will be a national Brigada

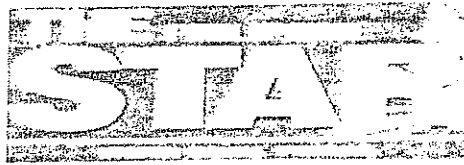
and all are invited to participate." She said it needs donations of construction materials such as cement, lumber, paint, galvanized iron, and tools. And it needs volunteers to help do the work as in the usual Brigada Eskwela projects but on a much larger scale.

Aside from the damage to the schools, there is danger of improvised explosive devices that may have been left by the rebels and their Islamic State cohorts in the buildings where they made their last stand. The danger posed by these "booby traps" had held back the advancing troops and they continue to pose a danger to all of those now involved in cleaning up in Marawi.

As it assesses the physical damage to the schools, Secretary Briones said, the DepEd is also considering other immediate needs, such as psychosocial debriefing for teachers and students. A first batch of teachers attended a Psychological First Aid session held in Cagayan de Oro City, with funds committed by President Duterte.

The rehabilitation of Marawi is now underway on so many fronts, and the restoration of the school system is of utmost importance. Thousands of students were able to shift to other schools in Region 10, and in other regions of the country. But the people of Marawi are now returning to their homes and when their children return to their schools, these should be safe from all possible danger and fully restored as part of the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

25 October 2017



Page: 13

Honor, salute and gratitude!!

By ELVIE PUNZALAN ESTAVILLO

elvie_punzalan@army.gov.ph

The dust of the Marawi siege is finally abating somewhat, with the deaths of the dreaded Omar Mattar and Isnilon Hapilon of ISIS, the brains behind the Marawi siege!

We give honor to our gallant, heroic, patriotic soldiers... as we express our deepest and never-ending gratitude to them.

The sacrifices, sufferings, grave risks and daunting challenges they faced... are beyond description.

To those who willingly and courageously laid their lives to repel the Maute rebellion... their deaths are... and shall never be in vain! The blood



they poured in Marawi, emboldened the resolve of our soldiers to avenge their ultimate sacrifices! Ending the sufferings and grave difficulties of our thousands displaced Maranaw sisters and brothers, and LIBERATING MARAWI – is their best way to render swift justice to their heroic deaths!

Not to be neglected are the loving and supportive families of all our heroic soldiers, who had to endure physical, mental, and emotional distress. Our sympathy, appreciation and gratefulness for their valuable contribution to this victory!

We are with you, our dear soldiers every single day! Our fervent prayers for your safety are with you every hour! That our Almighty God help, bless, lead and protect you all to the path of safety and victory at all times!

May all your gallantry and heroism in defending our beloved INANG BAYAN be most appropriately recognized and aptly and deservedly rewarded finan-

cially – for the killing of the two most-wanted highly-prized terrorists!

It is hoped that the most painful and devastating lessons seen and experienced from the Marawi siege... will MAKE EVERY FILIPINO EVER VIGILANT! To put the welfare and interests of all – be the concern and responsibility of each one of us. To report to proper authorities any suspicious activity of people around us. Make the Marawi siege the first and the LAST EVER in our beloved Motherland! VIGILANCE is the call, the price to pay, during this perilous time... to safeguard our most cherished Freedom and Democracy!

Heartiest congratulations to all responsible for liberating Marawi! We salute and honor you... with utmost gratefulness!

MASUHAY KAYONG LAHATI!
MABUHAY ANG ATING INANG BAYAN!

25 October 2017

Pahina. 3

ISSUE NO. 115



Mga sumuporta sa terorista, oras nang pangalanan!

EKSAKTONG limang buwan nang magisimula ang labanan sa Marawi City, opisyal nang idineklara ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na tapos na ang labanan. Napatay na ang mga natitirang terorista sa Marawi.

Binigyan ng pagkakataong sumuko ang mga natirang terorista dahil napatay na ang kanilang mga lider pero pinili pa ring lumaban hanggang sa katapusan kaya nakuha nila ang kanilang hiling.

Ang huling tala – 920 terorista, 165 sundalo at pulis at 45 sibilyan ang napatay sa limang buwang labanan. Ang danyos naman sa siyudad ay aabutin ng bilyun-bilyong piso.

Nagsimula na ring magbalikan ang ilang mga sundalo sa kanilang kampo at sa kalaunan sa kani-kanilang mga pamilya. Hindi pa rin tapos ang trabaho ng ilang sundalo. Kailangan pa ring siguraduhing walang mga itinanim na bomba

ang mga terorista. Siguradong may mga nakatakas na mga militante kaya sa tulong ng mga sibilyan ay dapat mahuli rin sila.

Kailangang mapangalanan din ang mga sumuporta sa mga terorista at hulihin. Nagpapasalamat tayo at natapos na ang pinakamalaking krisis na naranasan ng bansa. Ang mahirap at matagal na proseso ng rehabilitasyon ay maaari nang simulan.

ANG tanong ngayon, kailan babawiin ang Batas Militar sa Mindanao? Ang huling deklarasyon ni Pangulong Duterte ay mananatili ang Batas Militar sa Mindanao hanggang sa katapusan ng taon.

Ngayong tapos na ang labanan, kailangan pa ba ang Martial Law? Wala pang abiso mula sa AFP at DND tungkol dito, kaya patuloy pa ring may Martial Law sa Mindanao.

May dalawang buwan pa bago opisyal na matapos ang Martial Law, maliban na lang kung palalawiging muli ni P-Duterte. Pero tila wala nang dahilan para gawin 'yan.

Kung talagang magiging mahigpit sa kahulugan ng Martial Law, ang militar ang namumuno sa pamahalaan na tila hindi naganap sa Mindanao.

May mga nagtatanong pa nga kung talagang kinailangan ang Martial Law. Gayunman, kung wala nang dahilan, dapat ay bawiin at ibalik na ang pamumuno sa sibilyan na pamahalaan.

49

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

ONLINE NEWS

25 OCTOBER 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

Lorenzana turns over ADMM chairmanship to Singapore

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan October 24, 2017, 7:18 pm

CLARK, Pampanga -- Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, chairperson of the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and 4th ADMM-Plus, handed over on Tuesday the event's chairmanship to Singapore.

"Your Excellency Minister Ng Eng Hen, I have the honor to hand over the chairmanship of the ADMM and ADMM Plus to Singapore. I am confident that we will be able to sustain and further enhance our defense cooperation under your leadership. We shall reciprocate the support you have extended to us, and we look forward to the 12th ADMM and 5th ADMM-Plus in Singapore next year," Lorenzana said in front of ministers from 10 ASEAN member states during the handover ceremony here.

Lorenzana thanked his fellow ministers for making the Philippines' chairmanship memorable with several "first" activities held for the first time which included the convening of special ADMM Meeting on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, which resulted to a ministerial meeting about this when Marawi broke out.

"Indeed, this year's meetings have been productive and it would not have been possible without the cooperation of all my fellow defense ministers. It was a challenge to host such an event on such special occasion of ASEAN's 50th anniversary given the pressing security concerns in the country, particularly in Marawi and duties as Secretary of National Defense," Lorenzana said.

"With the support and full cooperation extended by my fellow ADMM-Plus ministers, we are able to mark ASEAN's 50th anniversary with enhanced defense cooperations towards a peaceful and stable region under the theme, Partnering for Change and Engaging the World. I wish to express my appreciation for all your support for the Philippines, ASEAN chairmanship, particularly for the 11th ADMM and 4th ADMM-Plus," he added.

He said cooperation and new guidelines have been enhanced with the more than 10 years of defense cooperation under ADMM as well as seven years of collaboration with the Plus countries through ADMM-Plus.

"With a decade of defense cooperation behind us, we deemed it timely to take stock all initiatives under the ADMM and came up with ways to streamline, rationalize and synergize these initiatives together and along with those under ADMM-Plus to ensure we do not duplicate our efforts. We have come up with parameters to determine how to streamline ADMM-Plus Experts, Working Groups under the ADMM-Plus," Lorenzana said.

The ADMM is the highest defense consultative and cooperative mechanism in the ASEAN.

It was established in 2006. It aims to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defense and security challenges, as well as enhancement of transparency and openness among 10 ASEAN member states namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ADMM-Plus dialogue partners include Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States. It was established in 2010. (PNA)

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



www.pna.gov.ph

China guarantees PH partnership on Marawi rehab

By Joyce Ann Rocamora October 24, 2017, 5:45 pm

MANILA -- China Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua on Tuesday said the country could find a "partner" in China as it begins the process of Marawi reconstruction.

This, after China handed over 47 units of heavy equipment to the Philippines on Oct. 23 (Monday) for the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the war-ravaged city.

"I'm glad China is the first country to donate and deliver rehabilitation equipment to the Philippines. There is a Chinese saying, that is, when you want to do something good, then do it timely," said Zhao in a speech sent by the Chinese embassy to the media.

"These equipment arrived just at the time when the reconstruction of Marawi City is about to begin. The donation is timely and they are going to (be) put to use immediately," he added.

At the beginning of the campaign against Islamic State-inspired terrorists, Zhao said China committed to stand together with the Philippines.

"It is not only because combating terrorism is the shared responsibility of all nations, but also, and more importantly, that we are close neighbors, partners, and friends," he said.

China has delivered two batches of rifles and ammunition to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

As per the embassy, the third batch will be delivered in the first half of 2018, with total value of PHP800 million.

Cash donation for the purpose of humanitarian assistance provided by Beijing has reached PHP95 million.

Zhao congratulated the Philippine government, the AFP in particular, on the victory of its anti-terror campaign in Marawi after two key figures of the siege, Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute, were confirmed killed in a military operation.

"It was a tough fight in an urban environment but through your determination and bravery, gallantry and combat capabilities, you have proven yet again that terrorism can be defeated and will be defeated," he said.

"I am fully confident that under the wise leadership of President Rodrigo Duterte, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Marawi City will be a complete success," he noted.

"In this important reconstruction process, you will have a friend and partner," he ended. (PNA)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Australia to provide urban warfare training to PH troops

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwari and Ferdinand Patinio | October 24, 2017, 3:41 pm

CLARK, Pampanga — The Australian Defence Force (ADF) would provide Filipino troops urban warfare training, Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said here Tuesday.

During the Philippines-Australia Joint Conference at the 4th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus, a high-level regional security forum among the regional bloc's member states and other countries, Payne said the ADF would deploy mobile training teams who would provide urban warfare counter-terrorism training in the Philippines in the coming days.

She said the practical training the ADF would provide would ensure that Filipino troops would be more equipped in countering brutal tactics by terrorists.

"Through our significant involvement in the Counter-Daesh campaign in Iraq and Syria, Australia has skills and knowledge that we can share with the Philippines' Armed Forces," Payne told reporters. Daesh is another term for the Islamic State (IS).

"It's like made up of mobile training teams, approximately 80 in total. We will go to the appropriate military bases as agreed with the Philippines' Armed Forces and the Philippine Government, to provide the urban warfare training to work with the army and the marines. The focus will be on conducting urban operations," she added.

The Royal Australian Navy would also conduct ship visits to the Philippines that would involve a range of cooperative activities to help build the Philippine Navy's capacity, Payne said, noting that this cooperation would begin with next month's visit of an Australian patrol boat.

She also confirmed that Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana had agreed to a new range of measures that would strengthen the two countries' cooperation to ensure that the Philippine Armed Forces would be able to face the challenges posed by modern-day terrorism.

"As part of the increased cooperation, we have also agreed to work together to enhance intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in the southern Philippines; strengthen information-sharing arrangements; and enhance maritime security engagement and bilateral maritime patrols," the Australian defense minister said.

Australia and the Philippines would also co-host a multiagency civil, military and law enforcement seminar on post-conflict rehabilitation efforts later this year, she said, adding that this would focus on lessons from past operations and international and local civil-military-police expertise that would beef up the Filipino troops' ability to combat terror threats in the long run.

For his part, Lorenzana welcomed the partnership between Manila and Canberra on the extensive Defence Cooperation Program that provides the mechanisms for military support, intelligence sharing, and people-to-people exchanges.

"Minister Payne and I discussed various programs and activities aimed at strengthening the defense cooperation between the two countries, particularly the possibility of visiting combat training facilities in Australia for some members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), as well as information

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

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

sharing, maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, the growing security concern in the Korean peninsula, and finalizing mutual agreements between the two countries," he said.

The defense chief said Australia had already offered to provide training based on the Philippines' needs and Australia's capabilities, including airspace coordination, urban warfare, and maritime operations. "While we need the troops now for the training on urban warfare, we also need to build a capacity to... train our troops. So the program that we are going to do in the future is to build our urban-fighting centers," he said.

Lorenzana expressed his gratitude to the Australian government for providing invaluable support to the AFP's operations against the Maute Group, particularly on increasing operational and situational awareness in the conflict area by providing surveillance planes to help our troops on the ground.

"Truly, the fight against global terror cannot be addressed by one country alone, and we are very much appreciative of Australia's support for our counter-terrorism program," he said.

"Together with Minister Payne, I am confident that the Philippines and Australia will continue to strengthen our defense cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two countries," Lorenzana said. (PNA)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Kintanar assumes top PAF post Tuesday

By Priam Nepomuceno October 24, 2017, 12:56 pm

MANILA -- Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar, Jr., a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985, will be assuming command of the Philippine Air Force during short ceremonies in Clark Airbase, Pampanga Tuesday afternoon.

He will be replacing Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, a member of PMA Class of 1982, who will be retiring from the service after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

President Rodrigo Duterte will be leading the change-of-command and retirement ceremonies.

Kintanar is described by his peers as silent worker, strategic thinker and an expert pilot.

He also served as Western Command head, which is headquartered in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, prior to his selection as PAF chief. *(PNA)*

Prelate expresses mixed emotions on end of Marawi siege

By Ferdinand Patinio October 24, 2017, 12:58 pm

MANILA -- Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña said he is both happy and sad over the termination of combat operations in the city.

"I am happy that the siege is over and people can go back to their respective places. The rehabilitation of the city can proceed at a dizzying pace hopefully," Dela Peña said in a statement issued Monday night.

On the other hand, the Catholic prelate said that he felt bad for the residents who were left homeless by the war.

"Sad also because there is practically no house to go home to for the Marawi residents, including us at St. Mary's Cathedral. It's going to be traumatic for some to see their former homes uninhabitable," the Marawi bishop said.

On Monday, government forces terminated all combat operations in Marawi City after confirming the death of the last members of the Maute Group that had laid siege to the city.

This marked the end of the five-month conflict that began May 23. *(PNA)*

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Intel appreciation could have cut short Marawi campaign: Año

By Priam Nepomuceno October 24 2017 9:56 am

MANILA -- If there is anything that the military could have done differently in the five-month battle for the liberation of Marawi City against the Maute Group terrorists, it would be in intelligence appreciation.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año made this statement when asked on what particular adjustments the military could have made to shorten or made the Marawi City campaign less costly or prolonged.

Around 920 terrorists were killed since the campaign in Marawi City started in May 23 while 165 troopers made the ultimate sacrifice in the course of the five-month campaign.

"*Siguro yung tinatawag nating appreciation sa intelligence information, marami nang mga dumating na information but we're busy running after terrorists in Sulu (and) Basilan in Maguindanao, so nagkulang tayo ng appreciation na this bunch of Maute-ISIS holed somewhere in Butig and Piagapo, they did the unthinkable which is occupy Marawi, yun nagkulang tayo sa appreciation.*" he said.

And if they have time to do this, Año said the AFP could have prepared and deployed more troops and equipment to counter the terrorists aside from employing commanders skillful in the use of intelligence and developing assets in the conflict area. (PNA)

Maute defeat in Marawi a warning to terror groups: AFP

By Priam Nepomuceno October 24 2017 9:56 am

MANILA -- With the decisive defeat of the Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City, lawless elements will be forced to think twice before occupying another city or town in the Philippines.

This was emphasized by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año in an interview Monday.

"(With a total of 920) terrorists killed since the start of the campaign (in May 23), they will think twice of occupying another city or town," he said.

Government troops killed in the five-month fighting stands at 165.

Despite these losses, Año said the AFP feels very happy as the job to liberate Marawi City has been completed successfully.

With this, the job of allowing the families displaced by the fighting and rehabilitation and reconstruction of facilities and homes damaged by the war can now start, he added.

"We can now proceed with the next phase. *makakabalik na yung mga kababayan natin sa Marawi, (Our fellowmen can now return to Marawi.)*" the AFP chief emphasized.

Also, the fighting in Marawi City has also served as a wake up call to all Filipinos that to defeat terrorism, cooperation is vital from everyone in the community. (PNA)

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

55