

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

27 October 2017

Friday

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

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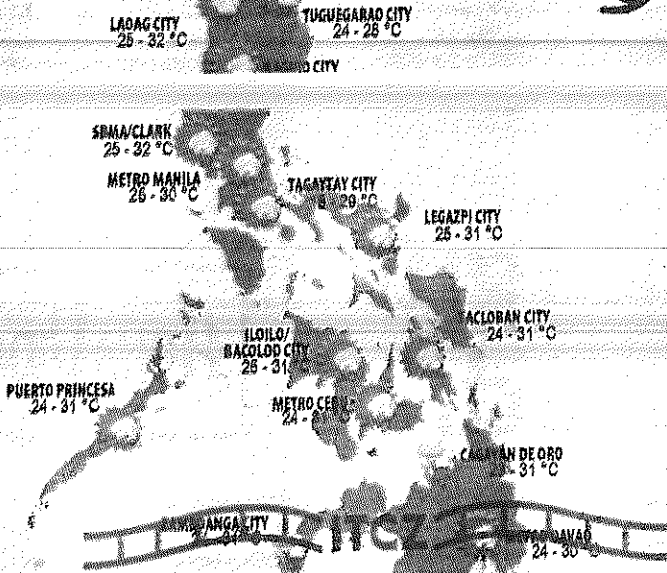


BusinessMirror



TODAY'S WEATHER

OCTOBER 27, 2017 | FRIDAY
 INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
 AFFECTING MINDANAO
 TROPICAL STORM "QUEDAN"
 ESTIMATED AT 1,105 KM EAST OF APARRI, CAGAYAN
 (As of 4:00 PM - October 26, 2017)



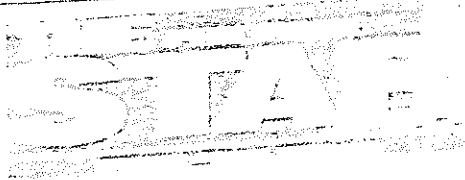
3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST

	OCT 28 Saturday	OCT 29 Sunday	OCT 30 Monday
METRO MANILA	26-31 °C	25-31 °C	25-30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24-29 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C
LAOAG	26-31 °C	25-31 °C	25-31 °C
BAGUIO	16-22 °C	17-23 °C	17-23 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25-31 °C	25-31 °C	25-31 °C
TAGAYTAY	19-29 °C	19-29 °C	19-29 °C
LEGAZPI	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25-30 °C	25-30 °C	25-30 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	26-31 °C

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Iloilo 'narco mayor' sacked

Ombudsman fires Mabilog over wealth

By JENNIFER RENDON

ILOILO CITY - On leave and said to be out of the country after being linked to drugs by President Duterte, Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog has been ordered dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman for "serious dishonesty" in connection with his "unlawful acquisition of wealth."

Mabilog filed a leave of absence for health reasons. He later filed for a 30-day extension of his "sick leave."

On Wednesday, Duterte concluded his remarks about the killing of alleged narco-politicians as well as Mabilog's own drug links with the words, "You're next." The President did not say what he meant exactly.

In a 13-page decision, the ombudsman also ordered the cancellation of Mabilog's civil service eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification from public office.

His spokesman Mark

Piada said the mayor "has not yet received a copy of the document signed by ombudsman prosecution officer Rachel Cariaga-Favila on Aug. 29 and approved by overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang on Oct. 6."

"We didn't expect that the ombudsman would not appreciate the evidences we presented," Piada said.

It was former Iloilo provincial administrator Manuel Mejorada who filed the charges against Mabilog.

Mejorada accused
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Mabilog of hiding the true sources of his income, in violation of the law on the filing of statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

The former provincial ad-

ministrator based his complaint against Mabilog on the latter's SALN.

The complainant alleged that the almost P9-million increase in the respondent's

net worth was "manifestly disproportionate" to his income as a public official and constitutes unexplained wealth.

In his 2013 SALN, Mabilog reported the purchase of a residential lot for P6 million, unspecified investments of P2.6 million and ownership of cash and cash equivalents amounting to over P6 million. Mabilog's 2013 SALN showed a net worth of over P68 million.

In his 2012 SALN, he reported a net worth of P59.3 million. This means that within a year, Mabilog's net worth increased by P8.9 million, Mejorada added.

Even with his businesses and investments, Mabilog could not have raised enough cash to purchase 664 square meters residential property and acquire new investments, Mejorada said.

Mejorada also noted that Mabilog did not state in his SALN his wife's work as a comptroller in Canada. The mayor's wife, Mejorada claimed, could not have amassed such huge amount of money from her job in Canada where taxes are

high, "unless respondent can present proof that his wife's income is sufficient to accumulate wealth."

In his 2012 SALN, Mejorada noted that Mabilog reported a bank loan in Canada for P21,587,615, listed as P21,183,600 in his 2013 SALN.

The decrease, the complainant noted, "defies financial logic," especially since

Mejorada believed that the loan was meant to make it appear respondent's net worth was smaller than it really was.

He also noted that Mabilog has financial interests in Mega Pacific Food Services Inc., One Esplanade Realty, Iloilo Happy Haus Donuts and Globe Jami Motors Corp.

Based on Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) records, Mabilog owns 30 percent share in the capital stock of Iloilo One Esplanade.

The ombudsman dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence the charge of grave misconduct against Mabilog in connection with his appointment of business partner Patrick Allan Sy as his "executive assistant for dengue concerns" as well as his alleged use of his position to secure favors for Iloilo One Esplanade.

Counter-affidavit

In a counter-affidavit, Mabilog dismissed the charges as malicious and conjectural with no solid basis.

He explained his family was already considered well off prior to his joining public office.

Mabilog insisted it was his business acumen that helped him spearhead the development of Iloilo City into a bustling center.

His wife's salary alone - at Cad\$200,000

- would allow them to live a comfortable and even opulent life, the mayor said.

Mabilog said his and his wife's property holdings and investments were all properly enumerated in his SALN. He stressed an increase in net worth does not necessarily mean an increase in income.

But the ombudsman said the burden of proving that Mabilog's wealth

Mabilog failed to rebut the assertions of unlawful wealth, the ombudsman added.

The ombudsman noted that Mabilog justified the increase in his net worth by citing his several businesses as well as his wife's huge income as a comptroller in Canada. Mabilog also failed to present proof of income from the business interests disclosed in his SALNs.

Mabilog hit the headlines in September after Duterte tagged him in public as a drug protector, with links to slain suspected drug lord Melvin Odicta Sr.

An assassin killed Odicta and his wife at Caticlan port in August last year.

On Wednesday before a gathering of Southeast Asian lawyers and diplomats, Duterte again accused Mabilog of involvement in the drug trade, even telling the mayor, "you're next."

It was apparently an ominous reminder to Mabilog of the fate that befell Odicta and mayor Rolando Espinosa Sr. of Albuera, Leyte.

Mabilog's spokesman Piad said Duterte's continued threats were aggravating the mayor's health condition. But he admitted Mabilog's extension of his leave was now more of a security precaution than a medical initiative.

Piad said they would exhaust all legal remedies to counter the dismissal order.

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UST law dean, 64 others under LBO over 'Atio' case

Service of Justice in the Philippines

**By Julius N. Leonen
and Angie M. Rosales**

Immigration officers in all international ports have been alerted to the possible escape attempt of University of Santo Tomas (UST) civil law dean

connection with the Horacio "Atio" Castillo III hazing case.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II issued a six-page immigration lookout bulletin order (LBO) yesterday instructing the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to block the newly-identified persons of

interest from leaving the country until they can secure a travel clearance.

Divina is among the fraternity members and trustees facing charges of hazing, perjury, obstruction of justice and murder before the DoJ. The UST law dean is being accused by Horacio's

created by another person of interest, Juan Solano.

Aguirre also included former Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy and UST Faculty of Civil Law professor Gabriel Robeniol, both members of the Aegis Juris fraternity board of trustees.

Apart from Divina, Uy and Robeniol, all law

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partners and trustees of the fraternity, those placed in the LBO yesterday are Alex Bose, Alex Cairo, Alexander Flores, Allan Christopher Agati, Alvin Dysanco, Arnel Bernardo, Arthur B. Capili, Arthur Capili, Atty. Alston Kevin Anarna, Atty. Cecilio Jimeno, Atty. Cesar Gaba dela Fuente, Atty. Cesar Ocampo Ona, Atty. Edzel Bert Canlas, Atty. Ferdinand Rogelio, Atty. Gaile Dante Acuzar Caraan, Atty. Henry Pablo Jr., Atty. Jet dela Pena Villaroman, Atty. Manuel Ventura III, Atty. Marvi Abo, Atty. Michael Vito, Atty. Nino Servanez, Brian Bangui, Cesar Tirol, Chuck Siazar, Edric Pilapil, Emmanuel Velasco, Gabriel Robeniol, Henry Pablo Jr., Karl Matthew Villanueva, Kim Cyril Rogue, Lennert Bryan Galicia, Leo Laluisis, Luis Kapulong, Manay Ventura, Michael Joseph Fernandez, Nathan Anarna, Oscar Ce, Paulino Yusi, Robin Ramos, Romeo Rivera Laboga, Ronald Cheng, RR Magbuhos, Sam Cagalingan, Vicente Garcia, William Meginie, and Zach Abolencia, Zach Abulencia.

Divina said he remains committed to cooperating with authorities in the ongoing investigations into the hazing incident, expressing confidence that his name will eventually be cleared from the allegations of cover-up.

Meanwhile, the DoJ also included a dead person, former *Mulaya* newspaper reporter and Cavite provincial prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who passed away in 2013.

Sought for comment, DoJ spokesman Erickson Balmes said: "We don't know if he's dead already. Better safe than escape."

The order was issued in light of the testimony of former Aegis Juris officer Marc Anthony Ventura who appeared to have turned his back on his fraternity brothers after coming forward as state witness in the alleged fatal hazing of Horacio.

Ventura broke the fraternity's omerta when he testified against his fraternity brothers before the DoJ and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) officials, detailing how Horacio was physically abused during four

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) officials of the Aegis Juris members and trustees' flights, itineraries and whereabouts should they attempt to leave the country.

"Considering the gravity of the offense allegedly committed, there is a strong possibility that the following individuals may attempt to place themselves beyond the reach of the legal processes by leaving the country," Aguirre said.

In a statement, Divina lamented his inclusion in the ILBO as "an unfortunate but not entirely unexpected development," insisting that he has no liability over the hazing case as he has "no prior actual knowledge" of the incident.

"Nevertheless, I will comply with whatever order the DoJ may issue. In fact, I just came from two overseas business trips. In both cases, I had to cut short my trip and adjust my schedule to be able to attend to Senate committee and DoJ hearings," Divina said.

at the DoJ Main Building on Tuesday as his fraternity brothers who were tagged as suspects were filing their respective counter affidavits during a preliminary investigation at the DoJ Forum Building.

According to Aguirre, Ventura, Aegis Juris' former secretary, is willing to face resignation or expulsion from the fraternity for his actions.

The criminal complaints filed against Aegis Juris fraternity members tagged in the initiation rites believed to have led to Horacio's death are pending a preliminary investigation at the DoJ.

Case to speed up with Ventura as state witness

The decision of one of the suspects in the hazing death of Castillo, Ventura, to turn into a state witness is seen to expedite the resolution of the case.

Even the probe in the Senate on the case is seen to be expedited with this latest

development.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of the committee on public order and lead in the Senate probe on the Castillo case, said they have already scheduled the third public hearing on Monday, Nov. 6 to possibly wrap up the inquiry and introduce the pertinent legislation that will provide needed teeth to RA 8049 or the Anti-Hazing Law.

It is their hope that amendments to the law will avoid future deaths of physical harm on young people like Castillo, he said.

As to Ventura turning into a state witness, Senators Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri and Joel Villanueva, said it's a welcome development to the case and brings justice for Castillo one step closer.

Lacson said it's still a long way to go before justice is finally served to Castillo.

"In any criminal investigation and trial, the details of the truth always add up to the credibility of a testimony. Ventura's narration of events that led to Atio's hazing to death has provided exactly that.

"Sadly, I can only imagine the mixed feelings of relief and agony

through right now - how they hate to hear what they have wanted to know," he said.

"Having said that, the manner by which the initiation rites were conducted, both preliminary and final could shock even those who have experienced the same ordeal when they joined their own fraternities," Lacson added.

Ventura had voluntarily submitted himself to the Department of Justice accompanied by his mother and lawyer.

He submitted a statement that narrated events and specific acts about more members and non-members of Aegis Juris fraternity who played their roles in the September 17 incident that resulted in the killing of Ato Castillo.

"The narration rendered by Ventura showed the frat brods were relentless in inflicting pain and injury. What they did were not symbolic acts of initiation into brotherhood or tests of character.

Each paddle whack, each punch and each candle wax drip had built into deadly blows from which no one could have emerged a whole person physically emotionally and mentally. Atio (Castillo) was a whole man before he underwent hazing, and came out of it a broken mass in pain," said Zubiri.

"The pang of conscience is the thin line that separates men from beasts. Young Marc (Ventura) gives me hope because his young conscience made him tell the truth and free himself from the sinister code of silence to cover up the crime within the walls of the Aegis Juris den called the Library," he said.

Ventura is the second Aegis Juris member who spoke on the killing of Castillo, after John Paul Solano, a medical technologist not currently enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas.

"It must have been a battle that Marc (Ventura) fought in his mind and heart through all these days while the Senate investigated, his frat brods lied and lawyers conjured smokescreens to save their skins. I note with high regard that Marc won the fight from being a coward to one who fearlessly

to be part of the light instead of the dark lies," Zubiri said.

Villanueva said he expects Ventura's camp to submit his and other affidavits, which were submitted to the DoJ, to be furnished to the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs which is investigating the death of Castillo.

Some Aegis Juris fraternity members, with the inclusion of Ventura, were being tagged as being behind the death of Castillo last Sept. 17.

"I am disgusted and shocked at the same time as these are guys (who) are supposedly our future defenders of the la. When is too much too much?" the senator said.

Villanueva said this latest development in the Castillo will also fast track the proceedings in the Senate and help in serving justice to Castillo and come up with remedial measures that will provide more teeth to the Anti-Hazing Law.

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Suspected NPA rebels torch truck carrying 1,462 boxes of bananas

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY - Some 15 fully armed men believed to be members of New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) torched a truck fully loaded with 1,462 boxes of bananas last Wednesday in Barangay Banahao, Lianga, Surigao del Sur, a flash report reaching the police regional headquarters on Thursday said.

The driver and helper of the truck were not harmed during the incident, according to police station.

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) in Lianga contained the blaze after an hour at around 1:38 p.m.

Initial investigation conducted by the Lianga police showed that the truck of DOLE- Philippines was travelling from Tago town, Surigao del Sur to Panabo City, Davao del Norte prior to the incident.

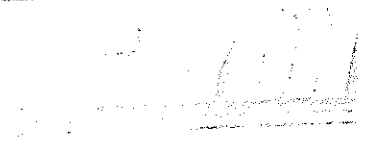
"Upon reaching the aforementioned place, said van was flagged down by more or less 15 fully armed men believed to be a member of Sentro de Grabedad (SDG) platoon under certain a.k.a. 'Dindo' and Tulong Wagdos, a.k.a. 'Tuloy', fired and burned the container van using their long firearms several times," the Lianga police report stated.

After the incident, the perpetrators immediately withdrew towards northwest direction in Sitio Huwangan, Barangay San Isidro.

Responding Lianga police personnel recovered from the crime scene several fired cartridge cases of M16 Armalite rifle, M14 rifle and AK47 rifle.

As of press time, elements of the Philippine Army's 75th Infantry Battalion and Lianga police are still in pursuit of the perpetrators.

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Pahina 7

Magkaangkas sa bike todas sa Army truck

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay - Nalasog ang katawan ng 17-anyos na rider at kanyang kaangkas makaraang sumalpok ang kanilang motorsiklo sa kasalubong na military truck ng Philippine Army sa kahabaan ng Maharlika Highway sa Barangay Malabog sa bayan ng Daraga, Albay kahapon ng umaga.

Patay agad ang mga biktimgang sina Daniel De Castro, driver ng motorsiklo (41-79-EU), ng Brgy. Sumlang, Ca-

ng Brgy. Nagoigot, Manito. Sumuko naman ang driver ng Army truck (SKN-489) na si Corporal Rey Alepanto ng Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.

Sa pahayag ni P/Senior Insp. Ma. Luisa Calubaquib, spokesperson ng Camp Simeon Ola, lumilitaw na nag-overtake ang motorsiklo ng dalawa sa sinusundang sasakyan sa kahabaan ng highway nang makasalpukan nito ang military truck na patungong kampo ng 9th Divi-

ng Pili, Camarines Sur.

Ang nasabing truck ay maghahatid sana ng mga kagamitang mula sa Marawi City nang maganap ang sakuna. **Jorge Hallare**

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATIONAL LEADING NEWSPAPER

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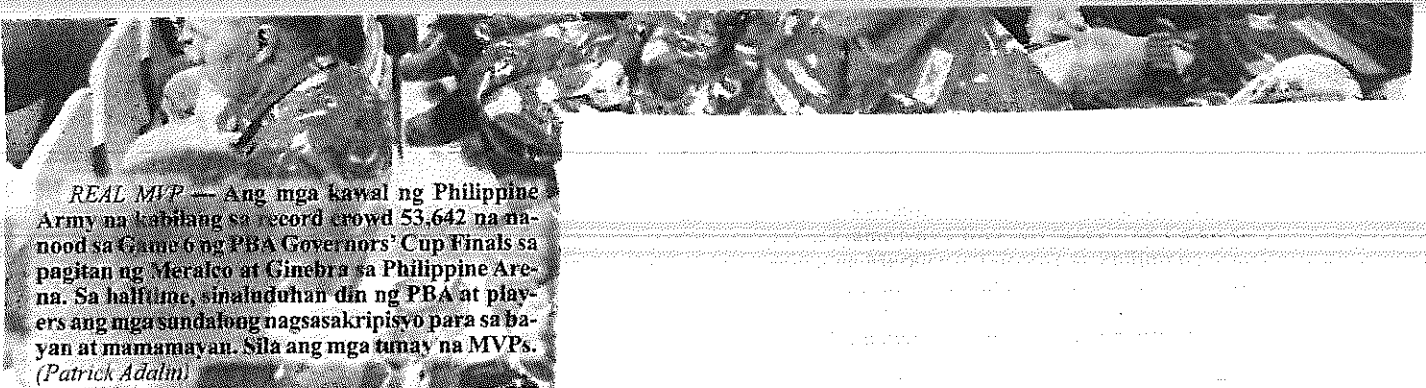


MARAWI HEROES HAILED - Philippine Army Scout Rangers who fought in Marawi City are welcomed back as heroes by grateful Davao City residents yesterday. (Keith Bacongco)

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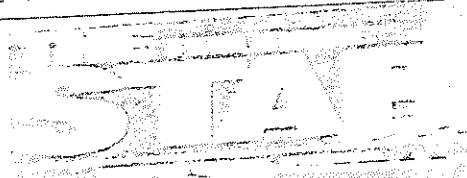


Pahina. 12



REAL MVP — Ang mga kawal ng Philippine Army na kabilang sa record crowd 53,642 na nanood sa Game 6 ng PBA Governors' Cup Finals sa pagitan ng Meralco at Ginebra sa Philippine Arena. Sa haliyune, sinaluduhan din ng PBA at players ang mga sundalong nagsasakripisyo para sa bayan at mamamayan. Sila ang mga tunay na MVPs. (Patrick Adalin)

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Año retires, to head DILG after one year

By ALEXIS ROMERO and JAIME LAUDE

The military chief credited for liberating Marawi from the clutches

of Maute terrorists has been named head of the department that has jurisdiction over the police.

Gen. Eduardo Año received his new appointment as secretary of the

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) upon his retirement yesterday as chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

President Duterte announced his

appointment of Año to the DILG at the turnover ceremonies for new AFP chief Lt. Gen. Leonardo Guerrero at Camp Aguinaldo.

But Año's actual assumption

can only happen after a year from the date of his retirement in accordance with law, Duterte said.

Duterte's marching orders to the new AFP chief is to destroy all weapons left in the battle zones of Marawi.

The Chief Executive lauded Año for his achievements in his more than three-decade stint in the military.

"He would head the Department of the Interior and Local Government. But while he is prohibited from assuming the task for one year — and that is the law, from the military service to the civilian sector, you have to wait for one year," Duterte said.

"Either he takes the title of Special Assistant to the President or undersecretary, whichever is tenable legally. And he will now supervise the Philippine National Police, together with (DILG officer-in-charge) general (Catalino) Cuy," he added.

"General Año's distinguished leadership resulted in a stronger AFP that did

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not just secure our nation, but also secured our people's trust and confidence in the military establishment and the soldiers that it represents," the President said.

The DILG has direct supervision over the Philippine National Police (PNP), which was recently pulled out of the war on illegal drugs following reports of gross abuses that included the execution of teenagers.

Año will also have jurisdiction over the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, which runs city and town jails that are currently crowded with suspects detained in the war on drugs.

Duterte said the liberation of Marawi was the "crowning jewel" of Año's career.

"As General Año leaves behind this legacy and marches towards his final review of our troops, I am confident that the AFP will sustain its gains because of the organizational and capability upgrades initiated during his tenure," the President stressed.

Duterte said the acquisition of new air and sea assets, state-of-the-art communications and the intelligence-gathering equipment and the latest military hardware.

He ordered the newly installed AFP chief to oversee the destruction of firearms seized in Marawi, recently liberated from Islamic State-linked terrorists Abu Sayyaf and Maute group.

"I will now request the Chief of Staff General Guerrero to supervise the destruction of all arms, whether high-powered or hand guns, all of it will be destroyed in some place to show

that we are also able to meet the challenges of terrorism and violence," Duterte said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the President was referring to the close to 1,000 firearms recovered in Marawi. He said the directive would ensure that the firearms would not return to rebels and criminals.

"Sometimes, if you keep the firearms in the armory, they end up going back to the streets and to the criminals. We might as well destroy them," Lorenzana said in a chance interview.

He said the military would also destroy the more than 2,000 firearms recovered in more than 800 clashes with various armed groups.

The destruction of the terrorists' firearms was Duterte's first instruction to Guerrero as the new chief of the 125,000-strong armed forces.

Guerrero was a graduate of Philippine Military Academy class of 1984 and a former Eastern Mindanao Command chief.

Guerrero will only serve as military chief for less than two months since he will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 in December.

the prerogative to extend the term of the military chief.

"We have martial law. That is a good reason for the President to extend (the term of) whoever is the chief of staff," the defense chief said.

Lorenzana said he could not speculate if Duterte would extend Guerrero's stint as armed forces chief.

When asked if he is in favor of extending Guerrero's tour of duty, Lorenzana said: "Yes. What can General Guerrero do in two months? Perhaps his tour of duty can be extended so he can perform his duty."

"He just assumed, why immediately discuss the extension?" National Security Adviser (NSA) Hermogenes Esperon Jr., himself a former AFP chief under then president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Arroyo, said when asked if Guerrero's term would be extended.

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Año to supervise police first before assuming DILG post – Duterte

By Ted Tuvera
and Mario J. Mallari

Newly retired Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Eduardo Año, who will assume the leadership of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in 2018, may be back in government service in less than a year.

His next job, according to President

“General Año will head the (DILG) but while he is prohibited from assuming the post for one year (under the law), so I am offering either of the two posts,” the Commander-in-Chief said in the AFP chief of staff change of

command ceremonies for newly installed chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

“Either he takes the title of Special Assistant to the President or the Undersecretary, whichever is tenable legally. And he will now supervise the Philippine National Police, together with acting DILG Secretary Catalino Cuy,” he added.

Año was supposed to retire early back in June to lead the DILG. He stayed on when the

The President lauded Año's career, saying his “crowning jewel” is the liberation of Marawi.

“The crowning jewel of his impressive career is none other than the Battle for the

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Liberation of Marawi, which resulted in the neutralization of almost a thousand IS-inspired insurgents that include high-value targets being (hunted) around the world," Mr. Duterte said.

Año is the chief implementor of martial law in Mindanao in the government's bid to recover and rebuild Marawi from the hands of Islamist bandits.

Guerrero, for his part, vowed to use the full might of the 125,000-strong military to quash terrorist and communist groups.

In his assumption speech, Guerrero said in gratitude to Mr. Duterte's trust and confidence, he will render his selfless leadership of the AFP in pursuit of the Commander-in-Chief's marching orders.

Mr. Duterte presided over the change of command ceremony -

"This is my pledge, this is my covenant - the priorities in the area of peace and security are clear, finish the remaining terrorist groups, neutralize the communist insurgency threat and support law enforcement agencies in efforts against lawless armed groups," said Guerrero in his speech.

"I intend to use the might of the AFP to make this a reality, the perseverance, sacrifices and hard works of our troops have brought solid results in winning the peace and bringing us closer to the people...our labor continues as we build on these victories. Together, let us do better, work harder, fight smarter and serve our countrymen even more," he added.

Guerrero also vowed to aggressively implement the AFP modernization program - particularly the acquisition of long-range and high endurance unmanned systems and modern air and naval platforms for strategic lift, interdiction, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"Operationally, we will continue to improve our capability to address current and future challenges. We will revisit our war-fighting doctrines to consider new battlefield environments and subsequently train and equip our soldiers to operate in the same," he stressed.

In his relinquishment speech, Año reiterated his recognition of the Filipino troops, particularly those who fought in Marawi City for five months against Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) -

Guerrero's retirement age of 56 on December 17, 2017. The Commander-in-Chief, however, has the prerogative to extend an AFP chief.

Guerrero is the third AFP chief appointed by Mr. Duterte in the last 17 months.

Upon his assumption in 2016, the President appointed Ricardo Visaya, who served as AFP chief from July to December 2016. Visaya was succeeded by Año, who served only for 10 months.

Guerrero is a seasoned field commander who once headed the Army's 3rd Infantry Division commander, the 701st Infantry Brigade, and the Task Force Davao. He also served as Army chief of staff.

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Año's next job: DU30's special assistant on police

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said the next job of newly retired Armed Forces chief General Eduardo Año is to "supervise the police."

"He will take the title of special assistant to the president or undersecretary, whichever is tenable legally," Duterte said at the AFP change-of-command ceremony yesterday.

This is consistent with his statement in August that he will appoint Año as a "senior aide" under



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ate of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1984.

"Gen. Guerrero is one of the most qualified contenders," Año said.

Año previously said the AFP Board of Generals had submitted the names of four three-star generals to President Rodrigo Duterte last week.

Guerrero was widely believed to have been Duterte's pick to replace former AFP chief Ricardo Visaya, who retired last

"Año's leadership resulted [in] a stronger Armed Forces," adding that "the crowning jewel of Año's career is the liberation of Marawi."

Duterte wants to appoint Año as Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) but a legal restriction prevents him from appointing newly retired officers to civilian offices for a period of one

year. Año was supposed to retire early back in June to lead the DILG. He stayed on when the war in Marawi erupted.

The President has named Army Lieutenant Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero as the new chief of the AFP.

Guerrero heads the Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command, the hometown of President Duterte. He was a gradu-

appointment.

Reports said that Guerrero's term would be extended beyond his scheduled retirement in December.

In his younger years in the Army, Guerrero also got his brigade command in Davao Oriental. A Special Forces officer, he was assigned to the Presidential Security Group under former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

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Du30 to appoint retired AFP chief Año

By John Paolo Bencito

THE just-retired Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año would still be appointed as the next Interior secretary, President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday, but would still be appointed as special assistant to the President or as an undersecretary,

“But while he is prohibited from assuming the task for one year, that is the law ... either he takes the title of special assistant to the President or the Undersecretary, which ever is tenable legally,” Duterte said in a speech at Camp Aguinaldo.

“General Año, you are always welcome to report maybe tomorrow, I will wait for you,” he said.

Duterte said Año would soon supervise the Philippine National Police with Cuy,” he said, referring to Department of the Interior and Local Government officer-in-charge Undersecretary Catalino Cuy.

Acknowledging prohibi-

tions under the law, Duterte was referring to Section 8 of Republic Act No. 6975—An Act Establishing the Philippine National Police Under a Reorganized Department of the Interior and Local Government, and For Other Purposes that prohibits any retired police or military officer from being appointed as Interior chief within a year after retirement.

“The head of the Department, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, shall also be the ex-officio chairman of the National Police Commission and shall be appointed by the President subject to confirmation of the Commis-

sion on Appointments. No retired or resigned military officer or police official may be appointed as secretary within one year from the date of his retirement or resignation,” it read.

In the same speech, Duterte lauded Año for his

of the Armed Forces since assumption of its top post in December which he said resulted in a “stronger” military.

“The crowning jewel of his impressive career is the battle for the liberation of Marawi which resulted in the neutralization of almost a thousand IS-inspired insurgents which include high-value targets being hunted around the world,” Duterte said.

Año, a member of the Philippine Military Academy “Matikas” Class of 1983, was replaced by Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, who took over the helm of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as its 49th chief of staff.

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Guerrero assumes as new AFP chief

By AARON B. RECUNCO

Lieutenant General Rey Leonardo Guerrero on Thursday took over the helm of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as its 49th chief of staff in a ceremony led by President Duterte.

In his speech, Guerrero expressed gratitude ►8

Guerrero assumes...

◀1

to President Duterte as he stressed that the only way to repay his decision to choose him to lead the military is to serve the country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose.

"A soldier's life is defined largely by

flag, and his unwavering dedication to security and peace, all these I adhere to, all these I pledge as I take on the challenge of leading the Armed Forces of the Philippines as the 49th chief of staff," said Guerrero in his acceptance speech.

"The priorities in the area of peace and security are clear, finish the remaining terrorist groups, neutralize the communist insurgency threat, and support law enforcement agencies in efforts against lawless armed groups," he added.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Maharlika Class of 1984, Guerrero was the commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City where President Duterte is a native and a mayor for more than 20 years.

He used to head the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, the 701st Infantry Brigade, and Task Force Davao.

Guerrero had been rumored to replace General Eduardo Año as early as June after Duterte promised him the post of secretary of the Department

of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

But the Marawi City incident prompted Duterte to have Año stay until the Marawi crisis is over. He reached the mandatory retirement age on Thurs-

This caused a slight problem since Guerrero is set to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 in December this year, meaning he would only serve as AFP chief of staff for only two months.

Despite only two months stay, except if his tour of duty is extended, Guerrero vowed to push for the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We will revisit our war-fighting doctrines to consider new battlefield environments and subsequently train and equip our soldiers to operate in the same," said Guerrero.

"We will aggressively implement our modernization program and fast-track the procurement of advance weapon systems that provide cost effective and precise target engagement, long range and high endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms for strategic lift, interdictions, surveillance and reconnaissance," he added.

Also present during the turnover ceremony were former President Fidel V. Ramos and former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo whom Guerrero served as member

of the Presidential Security Group.

One-year wait for Año

Meanwhile, Duterte formally announced that Año will be the next DILG chief. But he would have to wait for a year because of the one-year ban on the appointment of retiring military officials to government civilian posts.

as a Special Assistant to the President (SAP) like Christopher Go, or an undersecretary of the DILG, whichever is allowed by the law, while waiting for the ban to lapse.

According to Duterte, the battle against Daesh-inspired terrorists in Marawi City is the "crown jewel" of Año's career.

"General Año's distinguished leadership resulted in a stronger AFP that did not just secure our nation, but also secured our people's trust and confidence in the military establishment and the soldiers that it represents," Duterte said.

"Of course, the crowning jewel of his impressive career is none other than the Battle for the Liberation of Marawi, which resulted in the neutralization of almost a thousand ISIS-inspired insurgents which include high-value targets being [hunted] around the world," Duterte added, referring to slain Abu Sayyaf Group leader Isnilon Hapilon, the appointed "emir" of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia. (With a report from Argyll B. Geducos)

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'AFP chief's short stint won't cause instability'

BY LLANESCA T. PANTI

THE two-month tenure of newly appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonaldo Guerrero won't result in instability in the military, a Palace official said Thursday.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella argued that while Guerrero would only serve as AFP chief for just two months before reaching the retirement age of 56, such short-lived term would not mean short-term policies.

"It is a tactical move of the President. I cannot fully explain the reasoning behind that. But we trust in his decision to do so," Abella said.

He, however, conceded that Guerrero's previous stint as commanding general of the Eastern Mindanao Command, which covers Davao City or the turf of President Rodrigo Duterte, was factored in.

"He (Guerrero) has knowledge of operational matters. He has earned the President's trust," Abella said.

The bombing of Davao City in August 2016 or less than two months after President Duterte came to power happened under Guerrero's watch.

Guerrero beat Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. who heads the Western Mindanao Command, Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison Jr., the vice chief of staff, and Vice Admiral Narciso Vingson Jr., the deputy chief of staff.

Duterte's first instruction to Guerrero was to supervise the destruction of all firearms seized in Marawi City.

"All of it will be destroyed in some place to show that we are also able to meet the challenges of terrorism and violence," the President said in his speech during the AFP's change-of-command ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

"The battle may be over but we must remain vigilant as we face the persistent challenges of terrorism and insurgency, especially in Mindanao. I therefore enjoin our troops to support the leadership of General Guerrero by remaining committed to your mission of ensuring [the] safety and security of our nation," he added.

Duterte on Thursday also for-

mally announced that he would appoint Guerrero's predecessor, Eduardo Año, as Interior secretary.

But since the law bans Año from leading the Interior department within a year from retirement, Duterte said he would make Año a special assistant to the President or an undersecretary in the meantime.

"General Año, you're always welcome to report. Maybe tomorrow, I will wait for you," Duterte told Año during the change-of-command rites.

Duterte said one of Año's primary tasks at the Interior Department would be to supervise the Philippine National Police, "together with [officer-in-charge] Catalino Cuy."

Guerrero, the 49th AFP chief, meanwhile, vowed to "finish" all

remaining terrorists and other armed elements in the countryside.

"This is my pledge, this is my covenant. The priorities in the area of peace and security are clear, finish terrorist groups, neutralize the communist insurgency threat and support law enforcement agencies in efforts against lawless armed groups," Guerrero said in his acceptance speech.

"Our Commander in Chief gave his marching orders to those who came before me and like those before me, I intend to use the might of the AFP to make this a

country, the peace, order, justice and hard work of our troops have brought solid results in winning the peace and bringing us closer to the people," Guerrero said.

WITH CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND DEMPSEY REYES

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Malaya

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New AFP chief turns sights on Reds, terrorists

BY VICTOR REYES

WITH the defeat of the terrorist Maute Group, new AFP chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero yesterday vowed to end the remaining terrorist groups and neutralize communist rebels.

In his assumption speech in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Guerrero said he is going to use the entire military to achieve the objective during his incumbency as AFP chief, which is until December 17 or less than two months, unless extended by President Duterte.

"The priorities in the area of peace and security are clear-- finish the remaining terrorist groups, neutralize the communist threat, and support law enforcement agencies

By terrorist groups, Guerrero was referring to the Abu Sayyaf and the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Front. Like the Maute Group, the two groups have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

Defense and military officials earlier this week declared that the Maute Group has been defeated with the end of the Marawi conflict after five months of fighting which left about 960 Maute members dead.

The New People's Army is the only communist threat.

President Duterte terminated peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA in July as the NPA continued its attacks on government forces even while the formal peace negotiations were ongoing. The CPP even

troops after Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law in May because of the Maute attack on Marawi City.

President Duterte has said he no longer wanted to talk with the communist group. Last month, however, he told the NDFP-CPP-NPA to declare a ceasefire if they want the peace talks to resume.

Guerrero, outgoing commander of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City, succeeded Gen. Eduardo Año who reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 yesterday.

He also said his gratitude to Duterte for designating him AFP chief "knows no bounds."

"The best way for me to show to you and to our

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NEW

countrymen my gratitude is to serve my country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose. This is my pledge, this is my covenant," he said in his address.

In an ambush interview, Guerrero said he will try his best to accomplish the goal he has set -- to finish the terrorist and communist insurgency problem in the next couple of months.

"We will try to finish whatever we can, given the period given to us," he said.

Asked if there is word from the President on whether his term will be extended, Guerrero said, "We should ask him... The extension depends on appointing authority."

On whether he is open to an extension, he said, "Let us not talk about the extension for now. What is important for me to do now is to focus on my job."

"In my case, regardless I am extended or not, I am mandated to finish what I started."

"I have objectives and targets that should meet and I intend to meet that."

If his term is not extended, Guerrero will be the AFP chief with the shortest tenure.

Before him, the AFP chief who had the shortest stint was Gen. Benjamin Defensor who served for less than three months -- from Sept 10, 2002 to Nov. 28, 2002. Defensor assumed the top AFP post two days before his retirement age. Then President Arroyo extended his term by two months

and 16 days.

Duterte, at the change of command ceremonies, highlighted some of the AFP's accomplishments under Año, like the successful end of the Marawi siege.

"The crowning jewel of his impressive career is the battle for the liberation of Marawi, which resulted in the neutralization of almost a thousand IS-inspired insurgents which include high-value targets being hunted around the world," he said.

In jest, he told Año to report for work today, his first day as a civilian.

Duterte early this year announced Año will be designated secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government. He was supposed to retire early -- in June after Duterte announced his new job -- but this did not push through because of the Marawi siege.

Instead of DILG chief, Año will temporary

serve either as a special assistant to the president or as an undersecretary, whichever is allowed by law. The law also prohibits a former military officer from assuming the post of DILG secretary within one year from the date of his retirement or resignation.

"He will now supervise the Philippine National Police, together with General (and acting DILG Secretary) Lito Cuy. General Año, you're always welcome to report. Maybe tomorrow, I will wait for you," Duterte said.

On Guerrero, Duterte said he expects new AFP chief to build on what Año has started.

He directed Guerrero to supervise the destruction of confiscated firearms "to show that we are also able to meet the challenges of terrorism and violence."

The President again announced that soldiers can expect a pay hike in January. -- *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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Marawi Standard

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MARAWI TUNNELS SHOW MAUTE HIDE-KILL TACTICS

THE main battle zone in Marawi City seized by Islamic State supporters resembles a tsunami-hit wasteland, with bullet-riddled mosques and a network of tunnels testifying to their hide-and-kill tactics.

Two days after the military declared an end to the five-month conflict in which more than 1,100 people died, scrawny feral dogs and swallows flying above the ruins were among the few signs of life in Marawi's devastated neighborhoods.

Many buildings were piles of gray rubble as if crushed by a tsunami roaring in from Lake Lanao just behind them.

The pink minaret of one mosque was so
been stripped off and just its iron beams re-
mained. *Next page*

Marawi...

From A1

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday ordered newly-installed Armed Forces chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero to destroy all the terrorists' firearms in Marawi to mark the country's victory against jihadists who laid siege on the city for nearly four months.

"I will now request the Chief of Staff General Guerrero to supervise the destruction of all arms whether high-powered or hand guns," Duterte said during the change of command in Camp Aguinaldo.

"All of them will be destroyed in some place to show that we are able to meet the challenges of terrorism and violence."

Duterte said the battle for the liberation of Marawi had resulted in "the neutralization of almost a thousand ISIS-inspired insurgents who include high-value targets being [hunted] around the world."

When the gunner initially rampaged through Marawi, the principal Islamic city in the mainly Catholic Philippines, military commanders expected a relatively brief battle and were surprised at their enemies' ability to hold out for so long.

The military maintained near-daily bombings, with state-of-the-art American radar helping to identify targets, yet the militants could often dodge the explosions.

A brief visit for journalists on Wednesday revealed some of their rat-like survival tech-

niques, including the digging of holes through concrete floors up to eight inches thick.

These connected to the city's drainage system, allowing them to scurry to nearby buildings undetected, according to the commanders who fought the ground war.

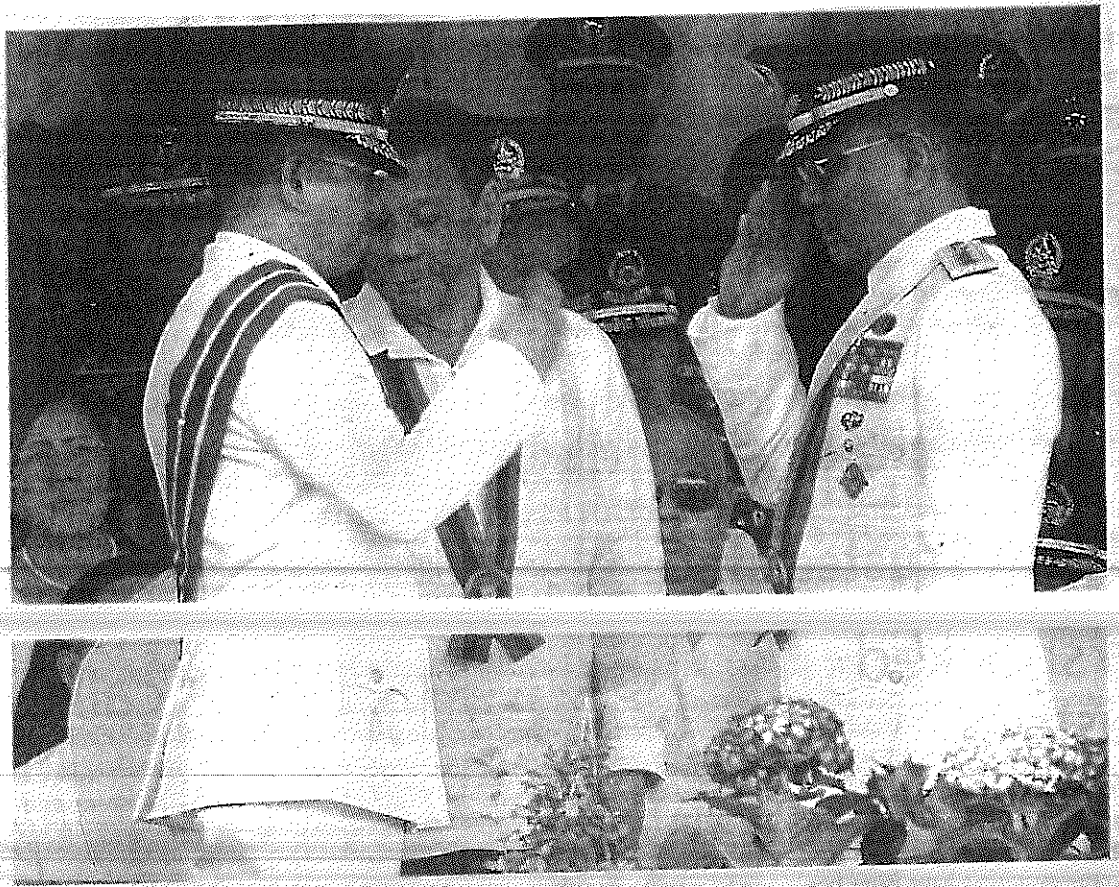
"They didn't want to pass open terrain, especially in the latter part [of the war]," Lt. Col. Samuel Yunque, commander of an army special forces unit that fought the entire campaign, told reporters.

But Yunque said the military also adapted to the militants' tactics by blasting their own virtual tunnels or "rat holes" in walls between buildings so troops could move quickly without going back into the open streets. AFP, with John Paolo Bencito

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REVOLVING DOOR? Newly installed Armed Forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero and his predecessor Gen. Eduardo Año salute each other at the change-of-command ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo on Thursday. PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ

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High praise for AFP



LOWDOWN
JOJO A. ROBLES

IT WAS high praise that was heaped on the Armed Forces of the Philippines by Jim Mattis, the visiting United States secretary of defense, for the AFP's conduct of the five-month war against terrorists in Marawi City. Not only did Mattis congratulate the military

ic State-inspired attempt to take over the city, he also noted that the AFP did so while respecting human rights.

"Here's an army that had to go in a fight like that, and they had not one human rights allegation against them with any credibility," Mattis told reporters at Clark Field in Pampanga.

"Not one, and when you look at how bloody awful that fight was, that's really a statement about the Philippine military that set a human rights condition in the midst of that fight the way they did so."

Certain US officials, rights groups and media organizations, of course, have been the most vocal critics of the human-rights record of the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. The Philippine president

the charges hurled from across the Pacific by the Americans, leading some to believe that ties between Manila and Washington are now at historic lows.

But the US has also provided a lot of support to the Duterte administration in its battle against the terrorists in Marawi. Indeed, the anti-Duterte noise emanat-

ing from the US was dialed down significantly during the Marawi campaign, for the simple reason that the Americans have always supported efforts to con-

"IS-style terrorism, as seen in the Middle East and exported to the Philippines,

enemy of human rights."

tain the spread of terrorism throughout the world

It's true that the Philippine military acted with great professionalism during the fight to take back the

predominantly Islamic city. When a platoon of Marines discovered a huge stash of cash and checks totaling P79 million in a terrorist stronghold that they liberated last June, the soldiers turned over all of money to their superiors; that's how professional those troops were.

Local leftist and rights groups, always on the lookout for incidents of abuse by the military during the tense and bloody campaign, could not find any case that they could credibly use in their anti-government propaganda efforts. And when the military broke the back of the occupying force with the killing of Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayyam Maute, the Commission on Human Rights could only say that it would look into reports that the AFP had not followed the "rules of engagement" when they

took out the two high-value terrorist leaders.

The truth is, IS-style terrorism, as seen in the Middle East and exported to the Philippines, is the greatest enemy of human rights. Never mind if you never hear the local bleeding hearts denounce the documented cases of sexual abuse, forced labor, murder and the use of human shields as recounted by the residents of Marawi who were caught in the war.

But its refreshing to hear a top US official commend Philippine security forces for simultaneously repelling a terrorist takeover and safeguarding human rights. And if the benighted and misled foreigners who have taken to denouncing the Philippine government for rights abuses on the basis of "evidence" presented by certain Filipino politicians

and other such partisan groups will only be more discerning, I'm certain that they, too, could become as convinced as Mattis is that they just fell for the anti-Duterte propaganda.

Speaking of discredited political partisans, the now-moribund Liberal Party has accused the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte of attempting to demonize party bigwigs in a supposed bid to divert attention from his government's own failings. According to the once-awesomé former administration party, attempts to link LP stalwarts Senator Franklin Drilon and failed presidential candidate Mar Roxas to the drug trade were meant to distract people from national problems "such as rising prices, extrajudicial

Turn to A5

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From AA

killings and corruption, including drug smuggling at the Bureau of Customs." The allegations against Drilon and Roxas were con-

tained in an affidavit signed by his suspected drug... which went mostly unreported in the Manila-based media after the document's disclosure last week. But the LP statement was strangely silent on the same

charges, based on the same affidavit, hurled against Jed... (on indefinite leave) of Iloilo City. Mabilog has been ordered dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman for "serious dishonesty," after he failed to explain a

significant increase in his net worth... Joraga, who filed the... nal charge against Mabilog in 2015, expressed surprise that the mayor was given the maximum penalty of dismissal and a permanent

prohibition from holding public office. "I am happy because this decision is a vindication for me [but] also saddened because the penalty imposed is the harshest under the law," Mejorada said. But I understand per-

fectly why the LP defended Drilon and Roxas but failed to even mention Mabilog, who happens to be a relation of Drilon. Mabilog, after all, has been ousted by Ombudsman Conchita Capi-Morales, long known for her passion for defend-

ing members of the party. Mabilog had to be thrown under the bus to save Drilon and Roxas. Mabilog has also effectively abandoned his post by going abroad and not returning—and now he's probably never coming back.

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Mabuhay ang AFP



AMBIENT VOICES

MA. ISABEL ONGPIN

at the soldiers' risk. Think of the women soldiers wearing hijab who came as angels rather than spitfires to console women and take care of children. What a sight in the midst of a war. This is almost a first in

the overall commander, has been cited meritoriously. I remember Gen. Galvez and Col. Brawner being among their soldiers in the field. There were others surely that the media missed, they are all to be thanked for bravery, for stamina, for sheer professionalism.

It seems there is better morale, more pride, more accomplishment from the Armed Forces these days. The professionalism is reflected in the spokesmen that have given

resources in the battlefield.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is one of the best Cabinet members: Laconic in words, eloquent in deeds. He leads by example. Gen. Eduardo Año, the Armed Forces Chief, is self-effacing but effective. As a team, and we include here besides the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Coast Guard, whoever participated in the Marawi battle. They have given us comfort and

I have never been more impressed by the Armed Forces as in their conduct during this siege. So far, nary a report of human rights abuses, unnecessary violence, or indifference to the plight of refugees, hostages, even the terrorists themselves. The terrorists have time and again been offered to save themselves by surrendering. I do not say there were no mistakes, I say that in general it was how it should have been under the circumstances.

The officers in the Marawi siege were there with their boots on the ground together with their soldiers. Gen. Rolando Bautista,

is happening, how it is being handled and why. They have been inspiring and reassuring.

Also, unlike in the past soldiers have been given the resources to fight the battle. There has been no reports of their not being fed or experiencing any lack of support like timely medical care, proper equipment, or having to fend for themselves. It seems a new and organized system has been put in place for the army to do necessary battle, something that was not so emphatically clear in decades past when troops had to scavenge because they were left with no

services. We have to appreciate their efforts to protect the Republic. I can only add my voice to all those now expressing gratitude and admiration for what they have demonstrated in Marawi.

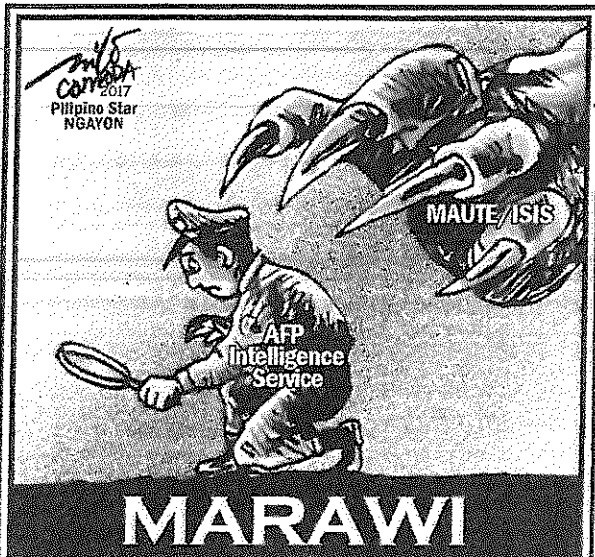
As a citizen seeing the above from a distance, I see an educated, modern, well-trained army. It seems we have come to a new day where troops are expert, disciplined and approachable, displaying remarkable courage and patriotism and regard for their fellow citizens as they lay their lives on the line to save the republic.

Mabuhay ang AFP!

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MARAWI

Editorial

May kulang sa AFP

■ IAGSIIWIAN na ang ilang sundalo...

sila ngayon makaraan ang limang buwan na pakikipagbarkaban sa mga teroristang Maute. Pangako pa ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte sa mga sundalo na pagbabakasyonin sila sa Hong Kong. Kahapon, sa pagsasalita ni Duterte sa Camp Aguinaldo, muli niyang pinuri ang mga sundalo sa kabayanihan ng mga ito sa pakikipaglaban sa mga terorista. Nalagasan ng 165 sundalo ang pamahalaan sa walang puknat na labanan. Umabot naman sa mahigit 1,000 katao ang namatay kabilang ang mga terorista. Sa huling araw ng labanan, 42 terorista pa ang napatay ng mga sundalo.

Dahil sa kaguluhan, lumikas ang may 359, 680 residente ng Marawi at nanirahan sa evacuation centers. Hindi nila malilimutan ang limang buwang paninirahan na para bang kaytagal-tagal at hindi na matatapos ang paghihirap. Halos maisumpa nila ang kalagayan sa evacuation centers. Kahapon, ilang residente na ang nakabalik sa kani-kanilang bahay makaraang payagan ng military. Nanilumo sila sapagkat marami sa kanilang gamit at paninda ang ninakaw. Ganunman, masaya na sila sapagkat nakabalik na sila sa sariling bahay.

Hindi lamang si Duterte ang pumuri sa kabayanihan ng mga sundalo at pulis na nakipaglaban sa mga terorista. Maski si US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis ay pinuri rin ang kabayanihan at katapangan ng mga sundalo at wala ring nareport na paglabag sa karapatang pantao na lagi na lamang naibabato sa Duterte administration. "Here's an army that had to go in a fight like that, and they had not one human rights allegation against them with any credibility," sabi ni Mattis sa pagtatapos ng two-day ASEAN Defense Ministers meeting sa Clark Field, Pampanga.

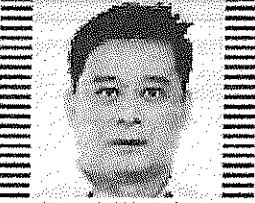
Kapuri-puri naman talaga ang kabayanihang ginawa ng mga sundalo at pulis sa Marawi. Pero sa kabila ng mga papuri sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) hindi maikakaila na nagkaroon sila ng pagkukulang sa planadong pagkubkob ng Maute sa Marawi. Hindi gumana ang kanilang intelligence kaya walang kaabug-abog na nakapasok sa Marawi ang Maute. Hindi nila natunugan na marami nang baril at bala ang nahakot at nakapagbarkaban...

mismo. Isang aral na hindi dapat kalimutan. Nagkaroon ng pagkukulang kaya nawasak ang Marawi.

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THE LAST MOHICAN



By MARIO FETALINO JR.

OKAY sana ang mga suhestiyon ni Australian security at military expert na si Clive Williams ng Australian Defense Force Academy na pag-ibayuhin pa ang kakayahang ng Philippine Armed Forces mata-

Australia hindi bilib sa AFP?

pine Air Force sa Marawi na hindi raw kayang tumarget ng mga maliliit na target.

Eh boss Williams, kaya nga tumagal ng limang buwan ang bakbakan sa Marawi dahil ayaw ng AFP na maraming mamatay na inosenteng sibilyan sa giyera.

Pasalamat nga at kahit luma ang eroplano at helicopter na gamit ng PAF ay malaki ang naitulong nito upang pulbusin ang mga Maute na may mga kasamang miyembro ng ISIS mula sa ibang bansa.

Kung pinahiram o binigyan ng Australia ang PAF ng makabagong

sa kanilang tulong, pwedeng targetin ng ISIS ang Australia at mga mamamayan nito tulad ng mga ginagawa ng mga terorista sa France, Germany, UK at Estados Unidos.

May basehan naman talaga ang pangamba ni Williams. Ang sa akin lang, maliit o malaki ang tinulong ng Australia sa Pilipinas laban sa terorismo, babalikan pa rin sila ng mga terorista sa tamang panahon.

Tungkol naman sa 'experience' ng AFP sa urban warfare, baka naman nakakalimutan ni Williams na deka-dekada nang nakikipagbakbakan ang AFP laban sa

pine National Police dahil sila ang unang respondente kapag umatake ang mga terorista sa Metro Manila.

Isa pa, it's high time na pataasin ang professionalism at performance ng ating kapulisan para matuldukan ang mga pagdududa ng publiko sa PNP.

Aminado ang PNP officials na nadudungisan ang buong kapulisan dahil sa kalokohan ng iilan sa kanilang hanay. Ang mga iilan na ito ang dapat tutukan ng anumang program na naglalayon ng reporma sa nasabing ahensiya.

Good afternoon sir.

dential po ang lugar namin. At saka kung magbababa po ng mga bakal ay hatinggabi at madaling araw palaging patago kung magbenta ay bulto.

Salamat po.

Bawal po ang ganayang kalakalan sa residential area lalo pa't nagcooperate sa gabi. Masama sa kalusugan ang acetylene at ang pang-iistorbo sa gabi.

Kung hindi po inaksyunan ng barangay ang inyong problema, malamang ay malakas kay Kapitan ang inyong nirereklamo.

Hayaan nyo po at tatawagin natin ang

ting sa Marawi.

Pero nakakapikon ang mga puna ni Williams na posibleng mas maraming inosenteng mamamayan ang namatay sa katatapos na giyera dahil pulpol ang ating kasundaluhan sa urban warfare.

Tinumbok pa nito ang di umano'y bara-barang pagpubomba ng Philip-

targeting system, eh di mas napaaga ang pagtatapos ng giyera.

Tinulungan na kasi ng Australia ang AFP sa aspeto ng intelihensiya upang sugpuin ang mga terorista sa Marawi. Ang tanong, ba't 'di pa nilubus-lubos ng Australia ang tulong.

Tapos, nangangamba si Williams ngayon na dahil

man o syudad.

At ito ang dahilan kung bakit nahuhuli at napapatay ng AFP ang mga kalaban ng ating bayan.

Ano ba ang experience ng Australia? I ask kasi Williams said Australia will train our soldiers on urban warfare.

Ang dapat yatang i-train ni Williams ay ang mga kawani ng Philip-

lugar namin, ang pangalan po ay Nash Junk Shop. Maingay po at mabaho dahil sa acetylene na pamputol ng bakal at plastic. Baka maging sanhi ng sunog.

Nagreklamo na kami sa barangay pero walang nangyari. Ang address po ay 110 Binhagan St. Barangay 131, Barrio San Jose, Calococan City. Resi-

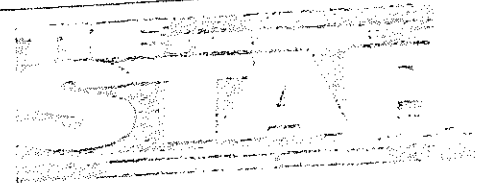
Mayor Oca marapitan. Naniniwala po ako na paninindigan ni Mayor Oca ang ibig sabihin ng kanyang pangalan.

Maraming salamat po sa pagtangkilik sa *People's Tonight*. Patuloy nyo po kaming basahin.

For comments, please call or text 09055080126 or email lastmohican-2004@yahoo.com

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New challenge for Año

The man in charge of retaking Marawi from Maute terrorists was appointed yesterday as the new secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. As DILG chief, Eduardo Año will have supervision over the Philippine National Police.

EDITORIAL

waging the war on illegal drugs. Año will face the challenging task of restoring public trust in the PNP, especially if it rejoins the anti-drug campaign. Can Año liberate the PNP?

Año's appointment was announced as he retired yesterday from the Armed Forces of the Philippines but it takes effect

The DILG chief also has supervision over local governments, including barangay units. President Duterte has said thousands of barangay captains and personnel have been linked to the illegal drug trade. A number of baran-

was given the challenging task of retaking Marawi from Islamic State-inspired gunmen who used civilians as shields and holed out in mosques as they engaged government forces. The urban warfare took five months, but the AFP, assisted by the PNP's elite Special Action Force, managed to neutralize the top terrorist commanders together with over a thousand militants and liberate the city.

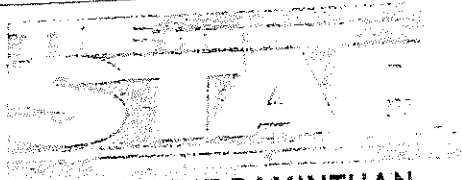
city and provincial governments, are also notorious for red tape, graft and inefficiency. Many have yet to comply with the President's order to keep the waiting time for public documents and other government services to no more than three days.

With that victory, much is expected of Año when he takes charge of the department that supervises the PNP. Unlike the AFP, the PNP has seen its public image deteriorate amid gross abuses in

Año will also have supervision over the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, whose facilities are overwhelmed by inmates apprehended in the campaign against drugs and criminality. With full support from the President, the new DILG chief should be able to make a dent in these problems.

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ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Foreign partners

President Duterte's idols, China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin, are skipping the ASEAN-Plus summit with dialogue partners that the Philippines gets to host only once in a decade, and which Duterte gets to chair only once in his lifetime.



But Putin has sent 5,000 AK-74M assault rifles and a million bullets as well as 5,000 steel helmets and 20 multi-purpose vehicles as donations to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

China also donated 3,000 M4 rifles and six million bullets to the AFP, on top of the M-16s donated at the height of the Marawi siege. The AFP gave the M4s to the Philippine National Police (PNP), but will likely keep the Kalashnikovs - from the same Russian maker of the world's most popular assault rifle, the AK 47.

with the AFP almost from the start of the siege, providing missiles when the AFP's limited supply ran out, apart from artillery, smaller weapons and ammo, drones, night vision and other surveillance equipment. Defense partner Australia also provided early assistance in combat.

Foreign partners contributed to the success of the campaign against the Mautes in Marawi. The government will continue to need outside help in the equally challenging task of rebuilding the city, and in confronting the lingering threat posed by Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

It would be useful for the President and commander-in-chief to remember this each time he feels like ranting against the country's friends.

President Duterte has made his point: he doesn't like open criticism and being told what to do by foreigners. It looks like foreign capitals got the message quickly and have been channeling their concerns through diplomatic or official channels rather than in public. By now they must be aware that the worst scenario is when criticism is vented through mass media, which seems to trigger a Pavlovian reaction from Duterte: he's certain to throw a fit, not just once but at almost every public engagement.

However, there are ways of telling critics to shove it without jeopardizing long-standing bilateral ties. Duterte's aides can do the nation a favor by advising him about the advantages of circumspection when it comes to international relations.

He's taking criticism of his policies as a personal affront, but the damage from his rants and actions can adversely affect the nation long after he's out of power.

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MCBL: EX-PRO POWERS

ARMY PAST QUICK PRINT

BANKING on ex-PBA player Jopher Custodio and former D-League stalwart Mark Montuano, Philippine Army blasted Quick Print, 104-90, in the Marikina City Basketball League held

at the Marikina City Sports Complex.

The hot-shooting former Globalport and Kia Picanto swingman Custodio knocked down four triples on his way to finishing with 26 points,

Montuano, another prized recruit of Philippine Army, added 24 as the duo provided the firepower support needed by Hell Francisco, who led the way with 32 markers.

Second generation

players Paolo Hubalde and GBoy Babilonia reinforced Quick Print, which drew a team-high 20 points from Kojack Meligrito.

Hubalde, son of former PBA Most Valu-

able Player and 40 Greatest Member Freddie Hubalde, chipped in 16 while Babilonia, son of the late Gido Babilonia, contributed 10.

The game was nip-and-tuck in the early

part of the fourth quarter with Philippine Army holding a shaky one point lead, 84-83, until the Armymen put their clamps on their rivals, holding them without a basket in the last four

minutes of the game to hammer out a win.

Overall, Army outplayed its counterpart. It had 12 more assists than Quick Print, 26-14, and scored more points off turnovers. 17-7.

ONLINE NEWS

27 OCTOBER 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

LIEUTENANT GENERAL REY LEONARDO GUERRERO

LIEUTENANT GENERAL REY LEONARDO GUERRERO is the 49th Chief of Staff of the 125,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Lt. Gen Guerrero is a member of Philippine Military "Maharlika" Class of 1984. He graduated Number 3 in his class. He was the commander of the 61st Infantry Battalion in southern Negros and 3rd Infantry Division before becoming the Commanding General of the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command that covers Davao City.

As the chief of the Eastern Mindanao Command, he oversees the Davao Region, the bailiwick of Duterte, Caraga, and parts of Soccsksargen.

Guerrero used to be the commander of the Task Force Davao and a Special Forces officer. He

Arroyo.

He consistently topped his career courses, has been a recipient of various awards such as Legion of Honor, Bronze Cross Medal, Distinguished Service Star and Military Merit and Commendation Medals and various commendations and recognition from NGOs and LGUs. MCAG

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

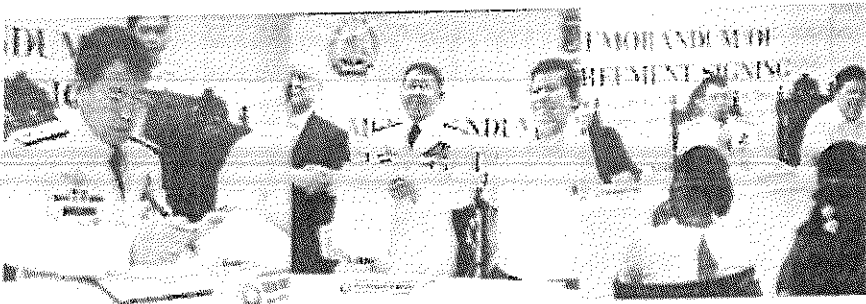
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SIGNING CEREMONY | MOA for Livelihood Program for Marawi KIA Beneficiary

Announcement

Memorandum of Agreement Signing on the Livelihood Program for KIA Personnel Beneficiary of the Marawi Crisis

Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City (DWDD)



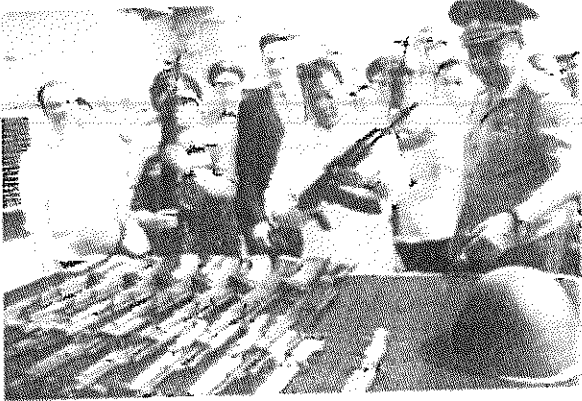
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

www.dwdd.com.ph

STRONGER TIES | Russia Donates Military Equipment to AFP

Alvin Sarmiento



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Duterte was joined by Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año in inspecting the military equipment donated by the Russian Government during a ceremony held Wednesday, October 25, 2017 aboard Russian

Also present in the turnover ceremony are Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Igor Khovaev and Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu.

The donation is composed of 5,000 units of AK-47M Kalashnikov rifles, 20 multi-purpose vehicles, 1 million pieces of ammunition, and 5,000 steel helmets. The military equipment was handed over to the AFP. Photo from NPAO

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

www.pna.gov.ph

ECC releases P2.3-M aid for wounded, slain troops in Marawi

By Ferdinand Patinio

MANILA -- The Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) has released more than PHP2 million worth of financial assistance for soldiers and policemen who were either wounded or killed in action during the Marawi siege.

ECC executive director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said Thursday that a total of PHP2,392,479.62 in benefits would be provided to the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP).

"The releases only represent the assistance provided to the uniformed personnel from January to September 2017," the ECC official said in a statement.

She noted that PHP1,752,479.62 was allotted for EC disability benefits, and PHP640,000 for EC death benefits.

The releases were made through the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

benefits for members of the AFP and the PNP who were wounded or killed in action in the war in Marawi.

"Similarly, ECC Board Resolution No. 17-06-23 was issued to provide, not only for the speedy facilitation of EC benefits of the members of the AFP and PNP who were wounded or killed in military and police operation, but also for their immediate enrolment under the ECC's *Katulong at Gabay ng Manggagawang May Kapansanan* (KaGabay Program)," Banawis said.

The program provides special assistance to persons with work-related disabilities (PWRD) in the form of either skills or entrepreneurial training and the provision of rehabilitation services and appliances.

Likewise, it primarily aims to facilitate their reintegration into the mainstream of the society.

Meanwhile, she reported that the Quick Response Program, another program of the ECC, has served 192 uniformed personnel. This is composed of 170 from the AFP, 20 from the PNP, and two from the Bureau of Fire Protection.

"The benefits also form part of the benefits granted to AFP and PNP battle and duty casualties, under the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program," Banawis said.

She added that the ECC continuously assists workers with benefits and services in the event of work-related sickness, injury, or death, and further emphasized the importance of keeping workplaces safe and healthy. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

New AFP chief vows to eliminate remaining security threats

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- Newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff, Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, on Thursday vowed to neutralize all the remaining security threats in the country during his term.

"A soldier's life is defined largely by the service he renders, his fidelity to the flag, and his unwavering dedication to security and peace. All these I adhere to. All these I pledge as I take on the challenge of leading the Armed Forces of the Philippines as the 49th Chief-of-Staff," he said.

Guerrero also expressed his gratitude to President Rodrigo Duterte for selecting him as the next AFP chief.

"As the 49th Chief-of-Staff, President Duterte, Sir, my gratitude knows no bounds and I believe that the best way for me to show to you and to our countrymen my gratitude is to serve my country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose. This is my pledge, this is my covenant," he added.

Guerrero said he is determined to finish off the remaining terrorist groups, neutralize the communist insurgency threat, and support law enforcement agencies in their campaign against lawless armed groups.

"Our Commander-in-Chief gave his marching orders to those who came before me, and like those before me, I intend to use the might of the AFP to make this a reality. The perseverance, sacrifices and hard work of our troops have brought solid results in winning the peace and bringing us closer to the people. Men, women of the AFP, our labor continues as we build on these victories. Together let us do better, work harder, fight smarter, and serve our countrymen even more," he said.

The incumbent Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC) head is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984.

Prior to his appointment to the EMC, he also commanded the Jamindan, Capiz-based 3rd Infantry Division, the 701st Infantry Brigade, and Task Force Davao, and served as Chief-of-Staff of the Philippine Army.

Guerrero is also a decorated military officer having been awarded the Distinguished Service Star four times; the Order of Lakandula (Degree of Commander); the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Officer); and the Honorary Airborne Wings from the Royal Thai Army. (PNA)