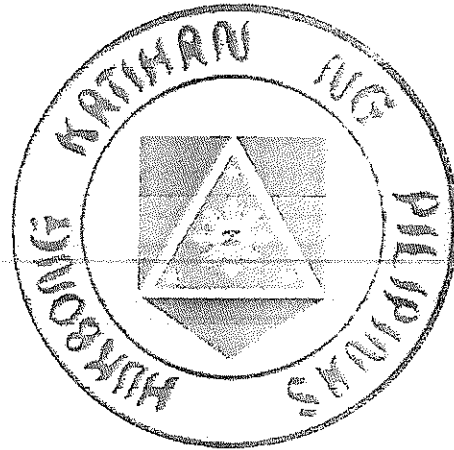


*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 October 2017

**Monday**

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 30, 2017 | MONDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING PALAWAN AND MINDANAO (As of 4:00 AM, October 29, 2017)

<b>SUNRISE</b>  5:51 AM	<b>SUNSET</b>  5:29 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>  4:56 PM	<b>MOONSET</b>  1:04 AM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>  OCT 28 8:22 AM	<b>FULL MOON</b>  NOV 4 1:23 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>  12:35 PM	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>  3:15 AM

	OCT 31	NOV 1	OCT 31	NOV 1	OCT 31	NOV 1
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25-31°C	24-30°C	21-29°C	21-29°C	24-31°C	24-30°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	21-29°C	21-28°C	24-31°C	23-30°C	24-31°C	24-32°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	24-30°C	24-31°C	24-31°C	24-31°C	25-32°C	24-32°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	14-24°C	15-25°C	25-32°C	24-33°C	24-32°C	24-32°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24-32°C	24-32°C	24-32°C	25-32°C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

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

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INQUIRER

Page: 11

# N. Korea rouses Asia

## to mull nuke buildup

NEW YORK—As North Korea races to build a weapon that for the first time could threaten American cities, its neighbors are debating whether they need their own nuclear arsenals.

North Korea's rapidly advancing capabilities have scrambled military calculations across the region, and doubts are growing the United States will be able to keep the atomic genie in the bottle.

For the first time in recent memory, there is a daily argument raging in both South Korea and Japan—sometimes in public, more often in private—about the nuclear option, driven by worry that the United States might hesitate to defend the countries if doing so might provoke a missile launched from North Korea at Los Angeles or Washington.

In South Korea, polls show 60 percent of the population favors building nuclear weapons. And nearly 70 percent want the United States to reintroduce tactical nuclear weapons for battlefield use, which were withdrawn a quarter-century ago.

### Reversal in Japan

There is very little public support for nuclear arms in Japan, the only nation ever to suffer a nuclear attack, but many experts believe that could reverse quickly if North and South Korea both had arsenals.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has campaigned for a military buildup against the threat from North Korea, and Japan sits on a stockpile of nuclear material that could power an arsenal of 6,000 weapons.

Last Sunday, Abe won a commanding majority in parliamentary elections, fueling his hopes of revising the nation's pacifist constitution.

This brutal calculus over how to respond to North Korea is taking place in a region where several nations have the material, the technology, the expertise and the money to produce nuclear weapons.

Beyond South Korea and Japan, there is already talk in

Australia, Myanmar, Taiwan and Vietnam about whether it makes sense to remain nuclear-free if others arm themselves—heightening fears that North Korea could set off a chain reaction in which one nation, after another feels threatened and builds the bomb.

### Rest of Asia

In a recent interview, Henry A. Kissinger, one of the few nuclear strategists from the early days of the Cold War still living, said he had little doubt where things were headed.

"If they continue to have nuclear weapons," Kissinger said of North Korea, "nuclear weapons must spread in the rest of Asia."

"It cannot be that North Korea is the only Korean country in the world that has nuclear weapons, without the South Koreans trying to match it. Nor can it be that Japan will sit there," he added. "So therefore we're talking about nuclear proliferation."

Such fears have been raised before, in Asia and elsewhere, without materializing, and the global consensus against the spread of nuclear weapons is arguably stronger than ever.

But North Korea is testing America's nuclear umbrella—its commitment to defend

its allies with nuclear weapons if necessary—in a way no nation has in decades. Similar fears of abandonment in the face of the Soviet Union's growing arsenal helped lead Britain and France to go nuclear in the 1950s.

### Heightened insecurities

US President Donald Trump, who leaves on Nov. 3 for a visit to Asia, has intensified these insecurities in the region.

During his presidential campaign, Trump spoke openly of letting Japan and South Korea build nuclear arms even as he argued they should pay more to support the American military bases there.

"There is going to be a point at which we just can't do this anymore," he told The New York Times in March 2016. Events, he insisted, were pushing both nations toward their own nuclear arsenals anyway.

Trump has not raised that possibility in public since taking office. But he has rattled the region by engaging in bellicose rhetoric against North Korea and dismissing talks as a "waste of time."

In Seoul and Tokyo, many have already concluded that Pyongyang will keep its nuclear arsenal because the cost of

ing to a 2015 paper by Charles D. Ferguson, president of the Federation of American Scientists.

9558 Local 5288 5298

**'De facto' nuclear state**

Japan once pledged never to stockpile more nuclear fuel than it can burn off. But it has never completed the necessary recycling and has 10 tons of plutonium stored domestically and another 37 tons overseas.

"We keep reminding the Japanese of their pledge," said Ernest J. Moniz, chief executive of the Nuclear Threat Initiative and an energy secretary in the Obama administration.

Moniz noted that it would take years if not decades for Japan to consume its fissile material because almost all its nuclear plants had remained offline since the 2011 Fukushima accident.

China, in particular, has objected to Japan's stockpile, warning that its traditional rival is so advanced technologically that it could use the material to quickly build a large arsenal.

Analysts often describe Japan as a "de facto" nuclear state, capable of building a weapon within a year or two.

**Not difficult anymore**

"Building a physical device is not that difficult anymore," said Tatsujiro Suzuki, former deputy chair of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission.

Japan already possesses long-range missile technology, Suzuki added, but would need some time to develop more sophisticated communications and control systems.

South Korea may be even further along, with a fleet of advanced missiles that carry conventional warheads.

In 2004, Seoul disclosed that its scientists had dabbled in reprocessing and enriching nuclear material without first informing the International Atomic Energy Agency as required by treaty.

"If we decide to stand on our own feet and put our resources together, we can build nuclear weapons in six months," said Suh Kune-yull, a professor of nuclear engineering at Seoul National University. "The question is whether the president has the political will." —NEW YORK

645-4655 Local 5288 5298

stopping it will be too great—and they are weighing their options.

**Capability to build nuke**

Long before North Korea detonated its first nuclear device, several of its neighbors secretly explored going nuclear themselves.

Japan briefly considered building a "defensive" nuclear arsenal in the 1960s despite its pacifist Constitution.

South Korea twice pursued the bomb in the 1970s and 1980s, and twice backed down under American pressure.

Even Taiwan ran a covert nuclear program before the United States shut it down.

Today, there is no question that both South Korea and Japan have the material and expertise to build a weapon.

All that is stopping them is political sentiment and the risk of international sanctions.

Both nations signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but it is unclear how severely other countries would punish two of the world's largest economies for violating the agreement.

South Korea has 24 nuclear reactors and a huge stockpile of spent fuel from which it can extract plutonium—enough for more than 4,300 bombs, accord-

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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATIONAL TRI-DAILY NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

## Big welcome for returning heroes from Marawi today

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Navy (PN) will host today a heroes' welcome for the Fleet-Marine Contingent who took part in

liberating Marawi City from the hands of Maute terrorist-rebel group and its Islamic State (IS) cohorts.

Captain Lued Lincuna, director of the Naval Public Affairs

▶ 6

Tokyo last night for a three-day visit that includes a flurry of meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Emperor Akihito of Japan, and businessmen.

Expected to arrive in Tokyo at 2:15 a.m., Duterte only has 12 hours before the start of his meetings in his second visit to the Land of the Rising Sun.

The President will be meeting first with Katsuyuki Kawai, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister and Member of the House of Representatives, in a courtesy call.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono will be paying a courtesy call on Duterte in the afternoon. This will be followed by the courtesy call of Shinichi Kitaoka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Duterte will then meet with Prime Minister Abe at the latter's office, the Kantei, in Tokyo. This will be followed by the signing ceremony of bilateral agreements and the two leaders' joint press statement, the only event in the itinerary which is open for media coverage.

Following the joint press statement, Duterte will attend the dinner hosted by Abe.

Tomorrow, October 31, Duterte will confer the Order of Sikatuna, posthumously, on the late Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda.

Duterte will also meet with Fumio Kishida, Chair of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Policy Research Council and former Foreign Minister, in a courtesy call.

Duterte will then meet with Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko. This will be the last event in Duterte's itinerary.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Duterte's visit is set to bolster the country's relations with Japan.

Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of Japan to Manila Takehiro Kano earlier reassured the Philippines of Japan's commitment in its relations with the Philippines.

Among the topics expected to be discussed during the President's visit is the Manila Subway Project or North-South Commuter Lines.

"Japan and the Philippines share common values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law. So our bilateral relationship is robust across different administrations," Kano had

said.

"Japan welcomes the President's visit and we look forward to seeing that this visit will further enhance bilateral relationship," he added.

Expected to join the President in his trip are Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Trade Secretary Mon Lopez and Duterte's economic team to reinforce the Japan-Philippines economic partnership.

Incoming Presidential spokesman Harry Roque will be joining the Philippine delegation.

#### Fukuda merit

Duterte is set to confer the Philippine national order of diplomatic merit to the late former PM Fukuda, the 42nd Japanese Prime Minister who served from Dec. 24, 1976 to Dec. 7, 1978. He died of chronic emphysema in the hospital of Tokyo Women's Medical College on July 5, 1995 at the age of 90.

The Order of Sikatuna is conferred upon individuals who have rendered exceptional and meritorious services to the Philippines. These include diplomats, officials, and nationals of foreign states who have rendered conspicuous services in fostering, developing, and strengthening relations between their country and the Philippines.

Before Fukuda, the Order was conferred on Kiyoshi Sumiya, Ambassador from Japan to the Philippines; Akihito, the Crown Prince of Japan; Abe; and Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

Most recently, Duterte conferred the Order of Sikatuna on Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuhide Ishikawa for his three-year service. Kazuhide concluded his stint as Japan's top diplomat in the country early this month.

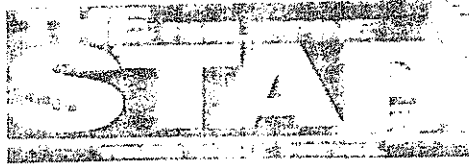
Prior to the scheduled conferment, the Philippines-Japan Society, Inc. (PJS) conferred the Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Promotion of Philippines-Japan Relations on Fukuda in January, 1982.

The PJS Medal of Merit is its highest award to Filipino and Japanese nationals who have significantly contributed to nation-building in terms of the promotion of friendship, mutual benefit, mutual respect and closer, deeper, stronger relations between the two countries.

Fukuda was recognized by the PJS for his "exemplary efforts in the pursuit of the paramount objective of this Society and for his countless contributions to the growth of unity among the peoples of Asia."



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## Ecija troopers return home from Marawi

**FORT RAMON MAGSAYSAY** - At least 79 Army troopers who served as rear defenders in the Marawi battle were welcomed by their superiors and colleagues at this camp in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija on Friday night.

The troopers, belonging to the Army's 72nd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC), recovered several firearms, improvised explosive devices and communications equipment during clearing operations.

Maj. Gen. Felimon Santos, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division (ID), hailed the troopers, saying they played a key role in Marawi by defending the rear position to prevent the arrival of reinforcements for the enemies. - Ric Sapnu

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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Pages 8

## NPA rebel surrenders in Abra

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

An active member of New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to the military in Abra on Thursday.

Lt. Col. Isagani G. Nato, the chief of the Public Information Office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Northern Luzon Command (AFP-NOLCOM), identified the rebel surrenderee as Eugene Agdap, also known as Kapitan Rense Berting, 33, single and a resident of Abra.

Nato said Agdap turned himself in to troops of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division in Sitio Barbarit, Brgy. Tagodtod, Lagangilang, Abra.

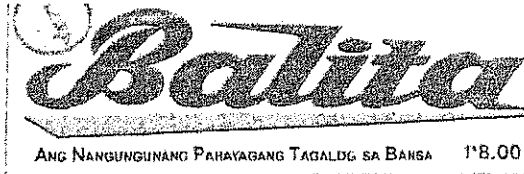
The rebel was the Squad Leader of the Kilusang Larangan Gerilya (KLG) MONTES under the Ilocos Cordillera Regional Committee (ICRC) with the Codename of Chadi Molintas Command of ICRC.

"His surrender was a result of the government's appeal to the misguided members of the local terrorist group (NPA) to come down and return to the folds of the law and live a normal and productive life with their families, rather than live a life of violence," Nato said.

"These positive developments on the ground manifest the sincerity and commitment of NOLCOM forces together with the strong support of the local communities to attain peace and development soonest," he added.

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## 2 bagong Army battalion dudurog sa NPA

NI MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Sa layuning durugin ang mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA), ipinakalat na ng militar ang dalawang bagong tatag na combat maneuvering battalion sa mga lugar na pinagkukutaan ng mga rebelde sa hilaga at katimugang Mindanao.

Ang dalawang bagong combat maneuvering battalion ng Philippine Army ay ang 88th Infantry Battalion (88th IB) at 89th Infantry Battalion (89th IB).

Sa Bukidnon itinalaga ang 88th IB at magbabase sa Marainag, habang sa Davao del Norte naman ang 89th IB, na may base sa bayan ng Sto. Tomas.

Ang 88th IB ay binubuo ng mga sundalo mula sa magkakaiibang dibisyon ng Army, ang 3rd, 8th, at 9th IDs, at ng mga bagong nagtapos mula sa 4th ID.

Layunin ng dalawang bagong batalyon na ayudahan ang mga sundalong nasa lugar na, upang tuluyan nang durugin ang mga natitirang miyembro ng NPA, ang

armadong sangay ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Kasabay nito, hinimok ni Army Chief, Lt. Gen Rolando Bautista ang mga bagong batalyon ng sundalo

na iwasan ang pulitika habang tumutupad sa kanilang tungkulin, ngunit patuloy na magpursige sa pagtalima sa mga layunin ng militar.

### NPA member sa Abra, sumuko

Sumuko sa militar sa Abra ang isang aktibong miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) nitong Huwebes.

Kinilala ni Lt. Col. Isagani G. Nato, hepe ng Public Information Office ng Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command (AFP-NOLCOM), ang sumukong rebelde na si Eugene Agdap, alias "Ka Itan", "Ka Rense", at "Ka Berting", 33, binata, at taga-Abra.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Nato, sumuko si Agdap sa tropa ng 24th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army sa Sitio Barbarit, Barangay Tagodtod sa Lagangiang, Abra.

Si Agdap ang squad leader ng Kilusang Larangan Gerilya (KLG) Montes, sa Ilim ng Ilocos Cordillera Regional Committee (IORC).

Francis T. Wakefield

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED** – An armoured personnel carriers (APC) rumbled along a highway in Sagularan, Lanao del Sur, Saturday, on their way out of Marawi City after successfully neutralizing Maute terrorists in the city. (Reuters)

7p October 2017

# MANILA BULLETIN

Page: |

## President to seek Japan's help to rebuild Marawi

By GENALYN D. KABILING  
and ARCYLL CYRUS B. DEDUCOS

President Duterte is seeking Japan's support for the massive re-

habilitation of war-torn Marawi City, apart from strengthening economic and defense cooperation during his visit this week.

The President traveled to ▶ 6

Office, said Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph S. Mercado, chief of the PN, will lead the welcome rites at Pier 13, South Harbor, Manila, at 7:30 a.m.

Lincuna said the Fleet-Marine Contingent composed of sailors, marines, seals, and aviators will arrive on the BRP Tarlac (LD601) from Iligan City after their deployment in the Naval Forces Western (NFWM) Area of Operations.

In Marawi, they contributed to the military operations against the Maute Group, who had occupied Marawi City since May 23. More than 900 Maute rebels, including leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, were killed in the five-month military operations.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said a total of 165 government forces (military and Philippine National

Police) were killed in the fighting.

Lincuna said the activity will have the theme "Bravo Zulu, Home for Christmas."

"Awarding of personnel will be given in recognition and appreciation of their achievements during the deployment. Families and loved ones of this contingent will also grace the occasion," Lincuna said.

Lincuna said after the ceremony on Pier 13, the Fleet-Marine contingent will proceed in a motorcade to Marine Base Rudiardo Brown in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City via the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas Boulevard and EDSA.

### New AFP chief of staff

Meanwhile, Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office (AFP-PAO), yesterday said that newly installed AFP chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has the experience and the current operational tempo of the AFP to undertake on the task of ending all threats to peace and security in the country.

Arevalo said that as commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command, General Guerrero's primary task was to dismantle NPA's guerrilla fronts that are concentrated in the Davao Region, Caraga Region, and Northern Mindanao.

He was also tasked to prevent the spread of violence and terrorism in his area of responsibility, especially during the Marawi City siege by the Maute-ISIS.

"Lt. Gen. Guerrero welcomes his new responsibilities as AFP chief of staff with strong momentum from his leadership of the Eastern Mindanao Command, given the area's susceptibility to terror threats and insurgency," Arevalo said.

In his assumption speech during the Change of Command ceremony held Thursday at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, General Guerrero said 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 against lawless armed groups.

The turnover took place more than a week following the termination of combat operations in Marawi City, with gains against the Abu Sayyaf characterized by numerous surrenders.

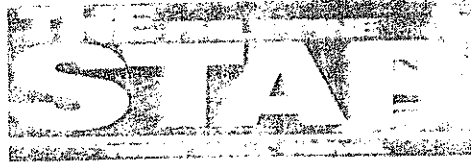
Guerrero said the AFP must continue with its reform programs, improve its capability, and revisit war-fighting doctrines in light of new battlefield environments.

"We will aggressively implement our modernization program and fast-track the procurement of advance weapons systems that provide cost-effective and precise target engagement, long-range and high-endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms," the general said.

He added that he will seek to refine internal processes, including improvements in services and transparency and accountability of transactions.

"My gratitude knows no bounds, and I think that the best way to show our President and our countrymen is to serve our country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose," Guerrero said.

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# New AFP chief tasked to end remaining threats

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Newly installed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has received his marching orders from President Duterte to put an end to remaining threats on peace and security in the country.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Guerrero has the experience to carry out that task given to him by the commander-in-chief.

"Lt. Gen. Guerrero welcomes his new responsibilities with strong momentum from his leadership of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), a similarly tall order given the area's susceptibil-

ity from terror threats and insurgency," Arevalo said yesterday.

Guerrero served as commander of the Eastmincom, which is at the forefront in the fight against the communist New People's Army (NPA) in Northern Mindanao.

Duterte also tasked Guerrero to "sweep" any traces of the Maute rebellion in Marawi City and contain the spread of extremism.

"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 against law-

less armed groups," Guerrero said in his assumption speech during the change of command ceremony held in Camp Aguinaldo last week.

Arevalo said the turnover was held less than a week from the termination of combat operations in Marawi City and takes off strong with gains against the Abu Sayyaf, characterized by numerous surrenders.

Guerrero added the AFP must continue with its reform programs, improve capability, and revisit war-fighting doctrines in light of new "battlefield environments."

"We will aggressively implement our modern-

ization program and fast-track the procurement of advance weapons systems that provide cost-effective and precise target engagement, long-range and high-endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms," he said.

The new military chief said he also seeks to refine internal processes including improvements on services and transparency and accountability of transactions.

"My gratitude knows no bounds, and I think that the best way to show our President and our countrymen is to serve our country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose," Guerrero said.

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## New AFP chief orders troops to finish off remaining threats

Newly appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero ordered all troops to eradicate all threats to peace and security in the country.

In a statement yesterday, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said this move echoes President Duterte's order to eliminate lawless elements following the liberation of Marawi City from the hands of the Maute group.

"Lt. Gen. Guerrero welcomes his new responsibilities with strong momentum from his leadership of

the Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC), a similarly tall order given the area's susceptibility from terror threats and "insurgency," Arevalo said.

Guerrero, who is concurrently EMC Commander, was tasked to dismantle New People's Army (NPA) bands that are concentrated in the Davao Region, Caraga Region and Northern Mindanao.

At the same time, he was also tasked to curb the spread of violence and terrorism in his area of responsibility, especially during the Marawi City siege.

"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 against lawless armed groups," Guerrero said in his assumption speech during the AFP change of command ceremonies on Thursday.

He also vowed to continue reform programs in the military, improve its capability, and revisit war-fighting doctrines in light of new "battlefield environments."

"We will aggressively implement our modernization program and fast-track the procurement of advance weapons systems that

provide cost-effective and precise target engagement, long-range and high-endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms," he said.

The new AFP chief also seeks to "refine internal processes including improvements on services and transparency and accountability of transactions".

"My gratitude knows no bounds, and I think that the best way to show our President and our countrymen is to serve our country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose," Guerrero added.

PNA

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# INQUIRER

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## JAPAN WORKING VISIT

# NUCLEAR PERIL ON AGENDA OF DU30-ABE TALKS

By Leila B. Salaverria  
@LeilasINQ

TOKYO—President Duterte and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe open talks in Tokyo on Monday on key regional concerns, including the nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

This is the third meeting between the two leaders, after Mr. Duterte's state visit to Tokyo last year and Abe's reciprocal visit to Manila in January.

Chief Japanese Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga has said the meeting between Mr. Duterte and Abe ahead of two regional summits next month provides great opportunity to discuss pressing issues such as North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Japan's Deputy Chief of Mission Takihiro Kano earlier said Mr. Duterte's visit would enhance cooperation between Japan and the Philippines for peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Duterte is one of

**A19**

the first leaders to visit Abe after his victory in national elections, which he called ahead of schedule.

The Philippine leader arrived in Tokyo on Sunday night for a three-day visit.

He will have discussions with Abe in the prime minister's office on Monday, after which the two leaders will issue a joint statement.

On Monday evening, Abe will host a dinner for Mr. Duterte.

Besides mutual concerns, Mr. Duterte and Abe are expected to discuss how to deal with the increasing threat posed by North Korea to regional and global security.

### Nuclear threat

Pyongyang has developed an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting the US mainland, although it is believed to be still far from developing a reentry vehicle that can carry a nuclear device to its target.

North Korea has also fired a ballistic missile over Japan, intensifying debate among the Japanese whether the country should revise its pacifist constitution to enable it to counter the threat from Pyongyang.

Mr. Duterte and Abe are also expected to tackle issues concerning the South China Sea along with the Philippine's chairmanship of this year's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit.

Abe is expected to attend the summit in Manila.

Japan is concerned about China's growing power in the South China Sea and sees cooperation with the Philippines, which lies on the waterway's eastern side, as key to helping prevent the spread of Beijing's influence into the western Pa-

The two leaders will be hosting US President Trump when he makes his first presidential tour of Asia next month.

Trump's tour includes stops in Japan, China, South Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines, where he will attend the Asean leaders' meeting but miss the subsequent East Asia Summit.

### Economic cooperation

Economic cooperation is expected to be part of Mr. Duterte's discussions with Abe. Japan earlier pledged 1 trillion yen in assistance for the Philippines over five years.

The Manila subway project and the north-south commuter lines, which would be funded by Japan, "would be further discussed for realization," Kano said.

Japan may also provide more aid for the rehabilitation of Marawi City, which was destroyed in five months of fighting between government forces and pro-Islamic State terrorists.

—WITH REPORTS FROM AP AND NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE INQ



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# INQUIRER

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## Leni: Honor slain soldiers

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkodizonINQ

Vice President Leni Robredo on Sunday called on Filipinos to honor the soldiers and policemen who gave up their lives in wars, not only in the five-month battle of Marawi City but also in different parts of the country as the nation observes All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day this week.

"Let us offer our prayers for our soldiers and countrymen who sacrificed their lives to achieve peace in Marawi. During this time, we remember the sacrifices that they and their families have made for our country, for the fight for peace," Robredo said in Filipino on her weekly radio show, BISErbisyong LENI, on RMN-dzXL 558.

### Sacrifices

The nation must thank those who made sacrifices not only in Marawi but also in other parts of the country like Basilan and Sulu where government security forces deal with security threats, Robredo said.

At least 165 soldiers and policemen while 47 civilians were killed in the Marawi siege. A total of 919 terrorists were killed.

"Let us remember their heroism not only this season but every day as we face these challenging times," she said.

The Office of the Vice President (OVP), through its flagship anti-poverty program, Angat Buhay, is preparing to extend assistance for the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

The OVP team led by the chief of staff, Undersecretary Philip Dy, has met with Task Force Bangon Marawi officials and the Marawi City local government to discuss how the office can assist in the rehabilitation.

Robredo herself visited rehabilitation centers in Marawi and Iligan cities during the fighting and extended help to the evacuees.

The pro-Islamic State (IS) terrorist coalition of the Abu Sayyaf and Maute groups seized large parts of Marawi City on May 23 to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

President Duterte ordered an all-out offensive against the terrorists and declared martial law in the entire Mindanao to prevent the spread of the terrorist uprising.

The military killed top leaders of the coalition, Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf and Omar Maute of the Maute terrorist clan of Lanao del Sur two weeks ago, ending the siege.

Robredo emphasized the need for coordination and convergence in the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

She has suggested the creation of a "central command that will process assistance from all agencies and organizations, both in the government and the private sector," the OVP said in a statement. INQ

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# MANILA BULLETIN

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## VP Leni: Pray for our fallen soldiers

By RAYMOND F. ANTONIO

**V**ice President (VP) Leni Robredo called on Filipinos on Sunday to remember and pray for the fallen soldiers, who perished in the pursuit of their duty to the country on All Saints' and All Souls' Day.

"Mag-alay tayo sana ng dasal para sa ating mga sundalo at kababayan na nag-alay po ng buhay upang makamit ang kapayapaan sa Marawi. Itô ang panahon para alalahanin natin iyong sakripisyong ibinigay nila sa ating bayan (Let us offer prayers to our soldiers and countrymen who sacrificed their lives to attain peace in Marawi. This is the time to remember

their sacrifices for the country)," Robredo said. The Vice President conveyed her message to Filipinos for the commemoration of All Saints' and All Souls' Day on November 1 and 2 during her weekly radio show, "BIS-Erbisyong Leni."

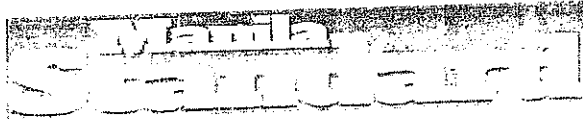


ROBREDO

Robredo said it is fitting to pray for the eternal repose of the souls of fallen soldiers and heroes in recognition of their efforts to defend democracy, freedom, and peace.

Robredo, a former Camarines Sur representative, wished the entire country a peaceful All Saints' and All Souls' Day celebration.

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## Marawi prepares to recover 700 cadavers

THE government expects to retrieve more than 100 bodies of civilians from the main battle area in Marawi City, an assemblyman from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said Sunday.

In an interview over radio dzBB, ARMM Assembly-

man Zia Alonto Adiong said there were 61 people still missing.

"Actually, we're expecting the worst," he added. "We are not causing any panic here or alarm, but we're getting ready. We are expecting the worst."

Adiong said the government had buried about 100 people at the Magbara Public Cemetery, and was expecting to find the bodies of 600 to 700 members of the Maute terrorist group that had overrun the city on May 23.

"These are the Maute

fighters alone but they're also looking at the possibility of finding civilians there," Adiong said.

The military declared an end to the five-month siege in Marawi City on Oct. 23, after government troops

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### Marawi...

From A1

wiped out the remaining terrorist force in the city.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Task Force Lanao deputy commander, said the fighting took the lives of 920 Maute members and 165 government soldiers.

On Sunday, newly appointed Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero ordered the troops to eradicate all threats to peace and security.

In a statement Sunday, AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said this was in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's order to eliminate lawless elements following the liberation of Marawi City from the hands of the Maute group.

Guerrero, who is concurrently Eastern Mindanao commander, was tasked to dismantle New People's Army bands that are concentrated in the Davao Region, Caraga Region, and Northern Mindanao.

At the same time, he was also tasked to curb the spread of violence and terrorism in

his area of responsibility, especially during the Marawi City siege.

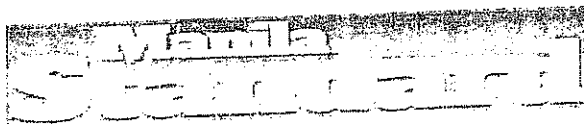
"The priorities in the area of peace and security are clear: Finish the remaining terrorist groups, neutralize the communist insurgency threat, and support law enforcement against lawless armed groups," Guerrero said in his assumption speech during the AFP change of command ceremonies on Thursday.

He also vowed to continue reform programs in the military, improve its capability, and revisit war-fighting doctrines in light of new "battle-field environments."

"We will aggressively implement our modernization program and fast-track the procurement of advanced weapons systems that provide cost-effective and precise target engagement, long-range and high-endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms," he said.

The new AFP chief also seeks to "refine internal processes including improvements on services and transparency and accountability of transactions." PNA

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## Du30: Marawi in dire need of rehab assistance

**Pearl A. Gajunera**

**DAVAO CITY** — Saying there will be grave consequences if the government fails to rehabilitate Marawi, President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday said that he will be seeking significant assistance from Japan to rebuild the war-torn city.

"I think the damage alone and the dimension of the distraction would tell Japan that we need our very best in their assistance. And I do not doubt that Japan can graciously give us the help that we [need]," Duterte told reporters here before leaving for Tokyo.

"Of course, we do not ex-

pect Japan would solve all the problems for us—but I would seek significant assistance, considering, as I said, the dimension of the destruction. I am hopeful that [Japan] can improve on these things because we really need to rehabilitate Marawi," he added.

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The President noted that with Japan's support to the government's Mindanao peace and development efforts, Marawi will soon rise "as center of moderation and tolerance in Mindanao" after Islamic State-inspired extremists laid siege on the Lanao del Sur capital last May.

The President likewise stressed that he would take "full responsibility" for the military-led action against jihadists in

Marawi amid threats by some residents there to file class suits against the government.

Duterte left the country for a two-day official visit to its top source of official development assistance where the threat of North Korean missiles and the enhancement of trade relations are expected to be at the very forefront of the talks.

The President will likewise meet today (Monday) with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who recently won a fresh mandate in the October snap elections, and Japanese Emperor Aki-

hito on Tuesday.

Duterte, who said he will "limit his mouth" during his meeting with Akihito, said he will bring the "warm greetings" of a grateful Filipino nation to the Japanese leader.

He said North Korea will be the "opening agenda" during his meeting with Abe as he stressed that a nuclear war in the region "is totally unacceptable."

"We are worried, all of us. If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong," he said.

He also broached the idea that someone "has to talk" to North Korean leader Kim

Jong-Un for him to "tone down and stand down" following recent nuclear missile test launches.

The President's visit to Japan comes ahead of Abe's attendance at the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Manila in November.

Although not an Asean member, Japan is among the dialogue partners invited to the summit.

In 2017 alone, loans from Japan amounted to \$4.84 billion, which is 44.83 of the total ODA received by the country during that period.

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# INQUIRER

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## Life returning where war started

MARAWI CITY—The streets of Basak Malutlut village are slowly returning to life.

Residents have started cleaning their houses, removing remnants of the five-month siege that left more than a thousand people dead.

Other residents said they were not surprised to find nothing left in their valuables.

"Do you think the terrorists would take away my sofa?" said Abdul Sarip, a resident of Basak Malutlut, the first village in this city where the government allowed residents to return on Sunday.

Sarip said his belongings were scattered everywhere when he entered his home.

"The vault where we kept our savings was forcibly opened," he said.

Amenola Gandaw, 52, a village councilman, said his family's P30,000 savings and other valuables were also missing.

"But I thank Allah that my family is safe and out of danger. We will start a new life from here," he said.

### Looting reports

Another man, who refused to be identified for security reason, said the village, though, was not a stronghold of Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen during the war.

"This only shows how bad our government was," he said.

"Our apartment is in the middle (of other units). They burned only my apartment. Everything was stolen," he said.

Local officials and the military have scheduled the return of residents until December.

Reports of looting surfaced since the early part of the war that started on May 23.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao, said authorities would look into the reports.

He said the military had drone footage where terrorists were seen looting homes at the height of the war.

Brawner said only residents who were on the list prepared by officials of Basak Malutlut were allowed to return on Sunday.

"If their names are not on the list, then they cannot enter. We want to prevent a repeat of what happened," he said.

On May 23, clashes erupted in Basak Malutlut when soldiers and policemen tried to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the acknowledged head of Islamic State in Mindanao, in a three-story apartment in the village.

But government forces were met by terrorists backed by an undetermined number of foreign fighters.

On Oct. 16, Hapilon and Omar Maute, one of the terror leaders, were killed by the military. —JEFFREY MAITEM INQ

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## Reds vow to resume attacks on gov't after Marawi battle

KORONADAL CITY—Communist rebels operating in the provinces of South Cotabato and Davao del Sur said they would resume offensives against the military and police as the war in Marawi City had ended.

"We will take action in due time," Efren Aksasato, speaking for the New People's Army's (NPA) Far South Mindanao Regional Operations Command, said.

Aksasato said the rebels would continue with the armed struggle because "there is no hope in President Duterte's leadership."

He said the NPA was previously hopeful of the Duterte presidency, but the Chief Executive's stand on the peace process changed this.

"The directive of our higher leadership is to conduct offensives against government forces and we will commence soon, we are declaring war," Aksasato said.

"He is antipeople and an-



Government soldiers walk the streets of Marawi City after war on Islamic State there has been declared over.

—REUTERS

tipoor, especially in his drug war," he said.

Aksasato said Duterte's Army was also not keen about the peace process as it continued

to wage war against the NPA.

"The military continued its operation against the NPA even during the ceasefire," he said.

"He is showing his true color now," said the rebel spokesperson.

Aksasato said the NPA would conduct tactical offensives, including ambushes and bombings, of government forces and companies that were antipeoor.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes said that Aksasato's statement was mere propaganda.

She said while the NPA operates in South Cotabato, rebel numbers were too insignificant.

"There are only a handful of them," the governor said.

In Davao City, Mayor Sara Duterte said she was pursuing localized talks with communist rebels.

Sara formed a committee for the purpose, called the Davao City Peace Committee.

—EDWIN FERNANDEZ AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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# INQUIRER

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## Amid Marawi deaths, new life emerges

By Loris Ann Cascaro  
@kalowrie

SAGUIARAN, LANAOG DEL SUR—New life emerged from Marawi City amid the deaths of dozens of residents during the war to prevent Islamic State (IS) terrorists from setting up an IS province.

At least 100 women, who fled the Marawi war, had given birth amid the most difficult of birthing places—evacuation centers.

One of them was Widad Batabor, 28. Pregnant for seven months, she fled Marawi the day she celebrated her birthday on May 23, when President Duterte declared martial law and war broke out.

She was bleeding profusely as a result of complications in her pregnancy.

"I wanted to save my baby before the bombings got worse," she said, carrying her now 4-month-old baby in her arms.

It took Batabor 10 hours to reach this town, at least six kilometers away from Marawi.

"It felt like 10 years for me," she said.

### 'Baby Bakwit'

Barely a month after arriving here, Batabor gave birth via caesarean operation to a baby boy she nicknamed "Baby Bakwit." It was a premature birth that Batabor blamed on harsh conditions as an evacuee.

Her hospital bills ran up to P99,000, virtually all that she had saved.

Batabor was among dozens of women from Marawi who gave birth during the war. She took shelter in a relative's house like about 80 percent of residents who fled did.

In this town, some 32 km from Iligan City, at least 108 women evacuees had given birth from May 23 to June 30.

All had given birth through normal procedures but poor sanitation in evacuation sites endangered their and their babies' lives.

The regional health unit in this town served as temporary hospital for at least 5,714 families. It recorded an average of four babies born daily from May 24 to

June 30. From July to September, 235 women had prenatal checkup.

Women with newborn babies continued to recover in tents or spaces on covered courts and plazas. They laid on straw mats or cartons on dusty floors.

### No protection

Plastic sheets placed above their sleeping areas barely protected them from the rain.

Daily diet consisted of canned food and rice. At least 213 lactating mothers stopped producing milk.

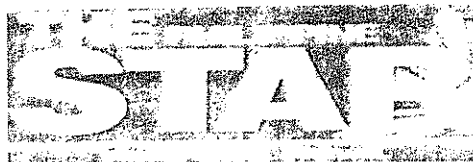
"It's just psychological," said Rocaira Butawan, midwife of Saguiaran health unit.

Butawan said that while the new mothers had been advised to get monthly checkups, only 60 percent returned.

The town's health unit listed 180 malnourished children from May 24 to June 30. The health center distributed Vitamin A, multivitamins, ferrous sulfate and powdered food.

During the same period, 627 children less than 5 years old suffered from upper respiratory tract infection. —CONTRIBUTED INQ

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## Marawi evacuees return to site of first battle

By JOHN UNSON

LANAOS DEL SUR – It all began here. Thousands of residents of Barangay Basak Malutlut where the bloody siege of Marawi began on May 23 have returned to their homes after being forced out by the fighting between government forces and Islamic militants for five months.

Regional Assemblyman Zia Albino Adiong, head of the Marawi Crisis Management

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Committee, said authorities have allowed the return of the residents after the military declared some of the areas in Marawi City safe from booby traps and unexploded bombs, including Basak Malutlut.

The village was the starting point of the Marawi siege where the first burst of gunfire from the Maute group erupted following the attempt of security forces to capture slain Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who was then hiding in the city.

More than 350,000 people from in and around Marawi were displaced because of the conflict, which ended on Oct. 23 when troops killed the remaining Maute gunmen inside a mosque.

With the eastern half of Marawi almost totally destroyed and worries over bombs planted by the militants, authorities have said it could be months or even years before most people would be able to return.

"Residents of Barangay Basak Malutlut started returning to their homes today, October 29. We are thankful to the office of Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra and all other agencies and cause-oriented groups helping return evacuees to Marawi City," Adiong said.

The military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) and the regional police of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have allowed the return of evacuees to areas already

inspected by bomb disposal teams.

Initial reports estimated some 5,000 residents of Barangay Malutlut returned to what remained of their village.

Local officials have to screen the evacuees to determine if they are residents of the barangay.

On the other hand, bomb experts from the military and police are busy deactivating IEDs left by the terrorists and collecting unexploded bombs scattered in some critical areas of the city.

"We cannot compromise the safety of the returning evacuees. We have to protect them from possible accidents," Westmincom commander Lt. General Carlito Galvez Jr. said.

About 10,000 Marawi residents have been allowed to return so far, mostly those who lived near Mindanao State University that was well outside the battle zone, according to local authorities.

About 33,000 others, whose homes are in so-called "controlled areas" that were spared the worst of the war, are set to follow this week, officials said.

Adiong said the Westmincom and the ARMM police have secured the safe return of the evacuees to their homes they abandoned.

"We are also thankful to different government agencies and non-government cause-oriented groups helping these evacuees," Adiong said.

Many of the displaced are living with relatives and friends, but tens of thousands without support networks have

been forced to live in makeshift evacuation centers.

The five months of fighting claimed the lives of 920 militants, 165 soldiers and policemen and 47 civilians.

Thousands of buildings were destroyed with entire districts turned into piles of concrete rubble.

After the remaining Maute terrorists were wiped

out, the government began the full blast reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi.

—Pia Lee-Brago, Paolo Romero, Helen Flores



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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## War materials, NPA flag seized in Agusan del Sur

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP RAFAEL C. RODRIGUEZ, Butuan City – Armed with search warrants, combined elements of the police and military swooped down on the residences of six suspects and seized war materials in a far-flung area of Balit in San Luis town, Agusan del Sur province, a flash report reaching the regional police headquarters here on Sunday said.

In an initial report received by northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) regional director Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, police and Army forces were able to seize during two fragmentation grenades, a caliber-.38 revolver, four improvised explosives devices (IEDs), four blasting caps, two detonating cords, two rifle grenades, a shotgun, and a New People's Army (NPA) flag.

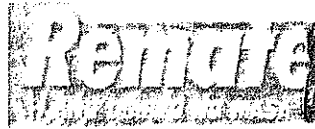
Felix identified those arrested as Julito Otacan, 44; Jonas B. Acosta, 37; Marlon O. Talalayod, 37; Enrique A. Baluado, 45; Joel S. Trasuna, 45; and Noli M. Tahudan, 28, all of Barangay Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur.

However, in the report of the Agusan del Sur provincial police office and San Luis municipal station, there was mention if they belong to the NPA.

Felix said troops are still determining if they are part of the insurgency movement in the area or not. "Investigation is still ongoing," the region's police chief said.

The Caraga region police chief said the suspects were arrested after authorities served six search warrants issued by Judge Lou A. Nueva of Regional Trial Court, Branch 7, Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur, all dated October 25, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

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Pahina. 2

### 'Lt. Col.' sa Marawi siege pinuna sa solicitation

MATAAS ang morale ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines makaraan ang liberation ng Marawi City mula sa Maute terror group.

Kasabay nito ang papunta ng sundalong direktang kasama sa operasyon para mapalaya ang lungsod at saknipsyo para talunin ang Maute terror group na magresultang pagkamatay nina AGG Leader Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.

Gayuhman, ilang kinatawan ng grupo sa Quezon City ang nagpahayag ng pangamba na mapulaan ang kabayanihan ng AFP bunsod sa isang gawi ng army official nang hindi magustuhan ng stakeholders sa Mindanao ang umano'y kung ano-anong "sino-solicit" na suporta nito.

Gayuhman, ayaw namang magsalita ng mga kinatawan mula sa iba't ibang pribado at cause-oriented groups para kilalanin ang opisyal na may ranggong "Lt. Col."

Sinabi pa ng source na isang mabuting hakbang ang paghingi ng suporta para sa mga nangangailangan lalo na sa Marawi residents subalit hindi anila sinaalang-alang ng opisyal ang mga prinsipal at nalalagay ang mga stakeholder sa alanganin.

Naniniwala namang ilan na walang alam ang superior ng opisyal dahil hindi naman umano nito papayagan ang ganitong gawi.

"While we are all out in supporting the AFP as an organization, this officer's ways only discourage stakeholders from doing more for the troops," dagdag pa ng source.

Positibo rin na mananatiling maganda ang imaheng mga sundalong lumaban sa terorismo lalo na ang mga nagbuwis ng buhay.

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## Military's 'Sir PR' hit for being 'unprofessional'

A mid-ranking Army officer is earning the ire of stakeholders in Mindanao for his alleged penchant of "soliciting" support from them.

Officials from various private and cause-oriented groups refused to identify the official, but said he has the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"This officer is fast earning the moniker 'sir PR' from stakeholders who are already losing patience with him for his ways of soliciting support to various activities," one source said.

"While soliciting support to worthy activities is good, this officer does not care going directly to principals to seek such...putting the stakeholders on the spot," the source added, citing instances when the officer would ask for favors at the expense of his colleagues and displaced Marawi residents.

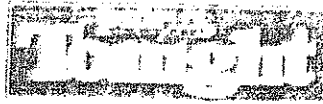
Representatives of a Quezon City-based organization expressed concerns that if not reminded, the officer may drag the military organization to bad light for his "unprofessionalism."

"We doubt if his superiors are aware of what he is doing. For sure, they will not allow such ungentlemanly conduct of their subordinates," they said.

"While we are all out in supporting the AFP as an organization, this officer's ways only discourage stakeholders from doing more for the troops," they added.

The sources lamented that while the military leadership has worked very hard, some troops even pay the ultimate sacrifice, just to maintain the good image of the organization, there are officers like the lieutenant colonel who tarnish the reputation of the AFP.

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## AFP chief pledges to end threats to peace, security

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

**NEWLY** installed Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero vowed to end threats to peace and security as ordered by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

According to AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, the top military officer has the experience and the current operational tempo of the AFP to undertake that task.

"Lt. Gen. Guerrero welcomes his new responsibilities with strong momentum from his lead-

ership of the Eastern Mindanao Command, a similarly tall order given the area's susceptibility from terror threats and insurgency," Arevalo said.

He added that as a commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command, Lt. Gen. Guerrero's primary task is to dismantle NPA's guerilla fronts that are concentrated in the Davao Region, Caraga Region, and Northern Mindanao.

He was also tasked to prevent the spread of violence and terrorism in his area of responsibility, especially during the Marawi City siege by the Maute-IS.

In his assumption

speech during the turnover of command ceremony on Thursday, Guerrero stressed that his priorities in the area of peace and security are to finish the remaining terrorist groups, neutralize the communist insurgency threat, and support law enforcement against lawless armed groups.

The newly appointed chief of staff said that the AFP must continue with its reform programs, improve capability, and revisit war-fighting doctrines in light of new "battlefield environments."

"We will aggressively implement our modernization program and fast-track the procurement of

advanced weapons systems that provide cost-effective and precise target engagement, long-range and high-endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms," Guerrero said.

Moreover, the AFP chief seeks to refine internal processes including improvements on services and transparency and accountability of transactions.

"My gratitude knows no bounds, and I think that the best way to show our President and our countrymen is to serve our country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose," Guerrero added.

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Pahina. 2

## Rigodon sa AFP

Aasahan nang magkakantoon ng paggalaw sa hanay ng mga opisyal ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa mga susunod na araw.

Kailangan kasi magtalaga ng papalit sa dating posisyon na binakante ng bagong AFP chief of staff na si Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero bilang pinuno ng Eastern Mindanao Command.

Sinabi ni Guerrero, bunsod nito ay tryak na mabalasa ang ibang pang opisyal ng militar pero umiwas itong sagutin nang tanungin kung nais nitong mapalawig ang kanyang termino dahil dalawang buwan na

lamang ang itatagal ay magreretiro na rin siya sa serbisyo.

Mahalagang manutukan ko ang aling trabaholalo na sa pagpulbos sa mga armadong grupong nagsisilbing ibanta sa seguridad at kapayapaan ng bansa," pahayag ni Guerrero.

Kamakailan nang pormal na ipinasa kay Guerrero ang posisyon bilang bagong AFP chief of staff sa idinaos na change of command na pinangunahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Camp Aguinaldo kasunod ng pagreretiro sa serbisyo ni Gen. Eduardo Año (**Betchai Julian**)

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Pahina. 3

## Bumugbog sa Maute na nag-viral kakasuhan

Tiniyak ni Joint Task Force Ranao Deputy Commander Col. Romeo Brawner na haharap sa kaukulang kaso at parusa ang mga sundalong nakita sa nag-viral na video na umano'y nanakit sa nahuling miyembro ng Maute-ISIS group sa Marawi City. Ayon kay Brawner, hindi nila palalagpasin ang ginawa ng kanilang kasamahan lalo na kung matitiyak na authentic ang nabanggit na video. "Gagamitin naming basehan ang video sa pagtukoy kung sino-sino ang mga sundalo na nanakit sa sumukong terorista, at kung mapatunayan ay dapat na kasuhan sila at maparusahan," pahayag ni Brawner. Una nang naging kontrobersiyal ang ku-malat na video na nag-papakita sa ilang sundalo na pinapahirapan o ginugulpi ang isang Maute member na sumuko sa pamahalaan. "Kahit na idahilan ng mga sundalong sangkot sa insidenteng iyan na dala lang ng kanilang emosyon kaya nila nagawa iyon, hindi pa rin makatuwiran iyon, hindi namin palalampasin ang bagay na ito," pagtitiyak pa ni Brawner. (Bethel Julian)

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## Will the military dance Digong's fandango?

**M**arawi was always a magnet of bewilderment for a variety of reasons. First, there is its distinctive geography. One goes up to Tagaytay and overlooks Taal Lake; but in Marawi, one climbs the 2,387 feet elevation and still wades through the shores of Lake Lanao, the second largest lake in the Philippines and one of the 15 ancient lakes in the world. Geologists averred that a combined tectonic-volcanic damming from the collapse of a large volcano formed the lake.

And then there are the fascinating M'ranao. Years of interaction with the People of the Lake has taught me to respect the orthographic nuance of their language and have since then insisted on spelling it as it is pronounced—M'ranao (some prefer the also-correct Meranau).

*Our embarrassing ignorance of the Moro*, which includes the M'ranao, has habituated us to the popular thought that they are nothing but objects of military operations. That was my fundamental objection to martial law in a Mindanao that already reeled from Islamophobia.

That foreboding was there when I joined a group of academics given a military pass to enter Marawi City on the last day of the battle. Leading us was the president of Ateneo de Cagayan, Fr. Bobby Yap, SJ, whose institution was very much in the thick of involvement with internally displaced persons (IDPs) of this war.

Although the main battle zone was off limits to us, we saw a ghastly sight that I had never ever seen in this beautiful summer capital—a ghost town bereft of human activity. The authorities had confined us to the provincial capitol



### KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

ANTONIO J. MONTALVAN II

compound, away from the charred zone that ironically is known by its regal name in M'ranao—Datu sa Dausalan.

I come from the martial law of the Marcos era. That is my historical anchor because I lived through all the years of that dark period of history. I had seen its abuses first hand. I personally witnessed the Marcos family flaunt their powers before the public. I knew what a silenced press was. I had known what fate befell its dissenters.

The young military officer who oriented us on this visit disoriented me—he spoke of a martial law that was far from the hawkish assertions of his commander in chief. He described a martial law administration rarely written by media, not even by the cussing troll armies associated with President Duterte.

"Martial law just tightened security measures but has never involved the military in civil governance," he told us. If what we had seen were the airstrikes and the images of the bombed-out city, what this officer told us confounded me.

Continuous security patrols were done around Marawi's perimeters, and we can understand that. Part of that was to achieve property protection and to prevent fires. We were told that soldier looters have been sanctioned.

Aside from recovering improvised explosive devices, soldiers were also tasked to retrieve and safekeep abandoned motor vehicles, even verifying its registration papers with the Land Transportation Office.

Much was done to protect the IDPs scattered in various relocation sites we had visited. There was livelihood support, one of which was a successful agricultural program in barangay Bito Buadi Itowa by Xavier University Ateneo de Cagayan. The agricultural production farm XU had trained the IDPs to put food on the table of their modest homes donated by the Tarlac Heritage Foundation.

The military also ensured psychosocial support to heal the traumatized. Conferences with ulamas were conducted, the dead buried under Islamic rites. Trainings for barangay leaders provided them with a checklist to prevent disgruntlement of the populace once normalcy would have been restored.

That orientation gave me two impressions. The Philippine military had evolved into a professional army, shedding off its repressive image under Marcos. The more serious impression was that of a military that, by performing under an emphasis of community relations, was subtly showing its indifference to dance with Mr. Duterte's fandango of a brutal martial law and a looming revolutionary government.

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## EJK OF ISABELA FARMERS

**M**y name is Violy Mendoza, I am a farmer from the municipality of Benito Soliven in Isabela. I have seven other siblings, all of them are farmers. Like many farmers in our place, we plant hybrid yellow corn to sell and raise chicken for food. And just like everyone else here in our place, we are poor and hardly make both ends meet. More so, though I am a farmer, I do not own any piece of land. I am a mere tenant and so are some of my siblings. My two other brothers, who are the reason why I am writing to you, occasionally hunt in the nearby forest to augment their income from farming. My elder brother Manong Ilyong or Rogelio, who is 61 years old, raised his seven children through such livelihood.

In the early morning of Aug. 28, 2017, my two beloved brothers—while on their way back from hunting—was mercilessly machine-gunned by elements of the 86th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. My brothers live in Barangay Baliao in the town of Benito Soliven, but the incident happened in the remote village of Sitio Lumalog of Barangay Cadalasan, which is adjacent to our village and part of the municipality of San Mariano.

The Alpha Coy of 86th IB headed by Lieutenants Alog and Canizares are the ones responsible for the horrible untimely deaths of my brothers. The soldiers have been in the remote farming community for already one week before their murderous action. The soldiers, according to local residents, have taken temporary camp in a higher area very near the hut of my brothers in Sitio Lumalog. The hut is well known to most people in the area and even to the soldiers, as a place where my brothers would rest and take shelter while hunting for wild boars in the nearby forested area.

Soldiers routinely conduct military operations in the said interior barangays of San Mariano and Benito Soliven. Most people would rather stay away from their huts and farms when soldiers are conducting military operations because they are afraid. But because my brothers were certain that the military soldiers would leave them alone as they knew them, Manong Ilyong and Rolito went on hunting for food and something to sell later.

But my brothers were wrong. The soldiers waited for them, carefully positioning themselves along the narrow dusty path leading to their hut. In less than a minute of bursts of gunfire, the cruel slaughter of my beloved brothers was over. Their bodies riddled with nearly 15 bullets from the soldiers they thought would leave them alone. One witness attested they heard Manong Rey cry out "...you are shooting civilians." And then there was silence.

Local people living near the site of that fateful event heard the bursts of gunfire. Fearing it could be someone they know, a local barangay official waited along the path of the soldiers asking to please see the bodies the soldiers were carrying. But the soldiers refused. Immediately there was news over the radio that there was an encounter in the interior barangay of San Mariano between the AFP and the New People's Army, further saying that my brothers were rebel insurgents and that they were fatally wounded in the encounter.

My brothers were not fatally wounded in an encounter. They were ambushed and helplessly murdered.

It is difficult to have somebody dear to you die like they were chickens. It is more difficult that the military and the government it serves do not seem to want to be responsible for the murderous act. Several times already, elements of the 86th IB stationed at a nearby village in Barangay Tappa have figured in incidents violating human rights in the area. Now fear is stronger among the people in our barrio. It is like a virus that spreads quickly from household to household. Depriving every man, woman and child of oxygen, of free air, of dreams of freedom. Now everyone seem to be afraid. This is not right. It cannot be right.

So I write to your newspaper, to seek justice for my brothers. So that people may know and they will help us and all other families like us find justice.

Justice for the Mendoza brothers.

Justice for all victims of extrajudicial killings.

VIOLY MENDOZA,  
Barangay Baliao, Benito Soliven, Isabela,  
c/o karapatan.cagvalley@gmail.com



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# INQUIRER

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## WILL THERE BE OTHER MARAWIS TO COME?

**M**arawi has set a dangerous trend. President Duterte should not boast this early because the “victory” against terrorists in Marawi may be an illusion. It is too early to tell. Then US President Barack Obama also boasted prematurely of “victory” in the assassination of Osama bin Laden, which was followed by the unprecedented growth of terrorism, manifested in bombs in London, Madrid, Paris, and Barcelona. For indeed, the charisma of martyr Bin Laden triggered a pulse in millions of Muslims worldwide. Would it have been better if he lived and died in old age?

Marawi gives us a lesson. The terrorists have sophisticated arms as the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We were surprised on how many soldiers were killed. They had seasoned snipers just as the AFP did. (Or was it the Americans doing the sniping?) We thought that when they were surrounded, it would

be just a matter of days before they would surrender. But it took five months, and the game is not really over yet. Cleanup operation is still needed.

The key element to the persistence of the Abu Sayyaf-Maute partnership is the Islamic State connection, which provided both state-of-the-art arms and ample funds to hold out. The IS knew the idea of a Marawi-based caliphate was important for its image to show the world that they have a foothold in Asia. “Caliphate-ism” was the battle cry to rally Muslims worldwide. But alas, it was just a PR move. A Marawi caliphate is a ridiculous notion.

The IS earns millions of dollars per day from the oil wells it operates in Syria. It sells clandestinely to Iran and Turkey, which are eager buyers. Ideology is only second to economics, politics to livelihood. The funds the IS gave to Marawi are a drop in the bucket, but not for the Abu Sayyaf-Maute tandem. It

was more than enough to hold out in a protracted war akin to Mosul or Aleppo.

Terrorists know Marawi is not a defeat; it is just the beginning. Terrorists are learning new tricks after being well-armed and well-funded. Will there be new Marawis to come? Even Mr. Duterte and the AFP believe so, preaching vigilance. Neyer mind the ridiculous caliphate concept. They will strike again, and hopefully it will not be like Marawi.

Mr. Duterte boasted at the Asean meeting of defense ministers at Clark that China and Russia provided arms, the United States and Australia the intel and expertise. He must be careful not to escalate toward a proxy war similar to Syria, where foreign powers became more powerful than the government to control the destiny of the nation itself.

BERNIE V. LOPEZ,  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

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PAGE TWELVE

## 'When the smoke cleared...'



By ELINANDO B. DINGO

**T**HE siege of Marawi ended last Monday, October 23, and President Duterte declared the city of more than 300,000 "liberated."

But the bloody armed skirmishes took five months to finish, starting with the attempted take-over by the combined Maute Group and IS terrorists last May 23.

When the smoke cleared, the toll showed an ugly count: 847 fighters of the terror group killed; 1,400 civilian and military wounded; 163 soldiers and policemen perished, 60 still missing, and 47 civilians including hostages dead.

Today reports from the locals and neutral laymen observers are being analyzed. They are centered on the strength and weakness factors of both government's and terror group's camps.

Foremost, the fence-sitters gave the government forces superior strength in terms of manpower and equipment, and seasoned commanders. Full logistical support, of course, is given.

Their weakness? Poor intelligence. Even retiring Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año noted this in a front-page news interview in the Manila Bulletin last October 26.

The main strength of the Maute-IS terror group was high morale of the fighters as Muslim jihadists; effective local network of informers and sympathizers in Muslim areas; they managed to occupy elevated positions of tall buildings and strategic locations; spirited agitations and encouragement from foreign mentors; sizeable foreign funding (remember the cash amounting to ₱39 million just laying bare on a

tabletop in an abandoned house?).

Add to the above was their familiarity with the terrain and knowledge of the existence of a labyrinth of underground tunnels, especially in the city's war zone. Their facility of the dialect spoken by residents in the war zone facilitating verbal communication and faster exchange communication.

The weakness of the terrorists: ill-trained fighters, lack of artillery support, no marine force, zero anti-aircraft fire power, inexperience in urban warfare, insufficient logistics, poorly trained commanders.

Buttressing some aspects of this layman's analysis was the post-war observation of retiring Gen. Eduardo Año that the Army lacked "appreciation of intelligence" in the early weeks of the siege. Further loss of lives and destruction of property should have been abated, the general noted.

He said that if the intelligence efforts were put in proper study, the Marawi war should not have lasted that long. He expressed his views in a news report published October 26 in this paper.

In the aftermath of the siege, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced that the Australian government has offered to train Filipino soldiers in urban warfare. Just exactly what our armed forces need.

Ostensibly, the Aussies wanted to augment the Filipinos' capability in waging terrorism through the so-called concrete jungle.

Specifically, the training will involve airspace coordination and maritime operation. It is expected that the aforementioned areas of expertise of the Australian army will help sharpen the Filipinos' combat ability in their continued fight against urban terrorism.

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# MANILA BULLETIN

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## PUNCHLINE

# 'Musical chairs' in gov't with Año, Duque, Aranas



By FRED M. LOBO

**P**RESIDENT Duterte has announced new appointments to his Cabinet and rotated some personalities to sensitive posts.

DU30 and his boys play "musical chairs" for greater efficiency in governance - and some friendly joy.

\*\*\*

The President also dismissed anew allegations his administration is into extra-judicial killings (EJKs) as assistance offers for Marawi rehabilitation pour in and as he embarks on a three-day visit to Japan.

Translation: "Ayokong EJKs, baka magalit ang Diyos!"

\*\*\*

Duterte announced the appointment of former Health Secretary Francisco Duque III back to the Department of Health (DOH), to replace Sec. Paulyn Ubial whose ad interim appointment was rejected by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

"Royal blood" gets back DOH which he headed in 2005-2010.

\*\*\*

The President appointed retired Gen. Eduardo Año as head of the Department of the Interior and Local

Government (DILG) upon his stepping down as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"Old reliable" will perform as "officer in charge" of DILG, DU30 said.

\*\*\*

In place of Año, Duterte named Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Borja Guerrero as new AFP chief of staff and immediately installed him at the AFP change of command ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo.

"Colorful ceremony but no troop movement, boys," DU30 seemed to whisper.

\*\*\*

Duterte explained he was appointing Año special assistant to the President or undersecretary in the meantime because the DILG Act of 1990 prohibits Año from immediately assuming the post of secretary within a one-year period.

"Gen. Año, you're always welcome to report, maybe tomorrow, to help supervise the PNP together with acting interior secretary Catalino Uy," Duterte said.

\*\*\*

Malacañang has also offered new positions to Kabayan Rep. Harry Roque and Deputy Commissioner Jesus Clint Aranas of the Bureau of

Internal Revenue (BIR).

Roque has been reportedly offered the presidential spokesman post, and Aranas as president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

\*\*\*

Roque disclosed he and the President were set to meet today to discuss the offer for him to become presidential spokesman amidst the international human rights issue over the war on drugs.

"Will meet [the] President," Roque confirmed in the wake of rumors that he would soon join Malacañang's communications team.

\*\*\*

Aranas, Palace insiders said, was offered the top GSIS post amidst a power struggle in the BIR headed by Commissioner Caesar Dulay.

DU30 to play as "fire extinguisher" between his warring boys.

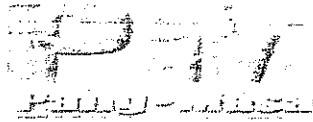
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Observers welcomed the immediate filling of vacant government posts by the President, hopefully based on proven efficiency and effectiveness rather than personal friendship.

Yes to more competent public officials! No to non-performing assets or NPAs in government!

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29 October 2017



Pahina. 3

Editorial

## Nagkulang ang AFP at mga taga-Marawi

**N**AGRERELAKS-RELAKS sa ngayon ang mga sundalong sumabak sa giyera sa Marawi City. Limang buwan din silang nakipagbambakan sa mga teroristang Maute. Maraming pangako sa kanila si Pres. Rodrigo Duterte. Kabilang dito ang libreng pagbabakasyon ng mga sundalo sa Hong Kong kasama ang kanilang misis. Nang magsalita si Duterte sa Camp Aguinaldo noong nakaraang linggo, 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 maligít 1,000 katao ang namatay kabilang dito ang mga terorista.

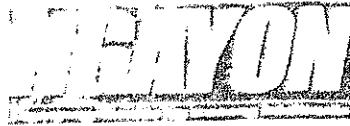
Dahil sa kaguluhan, lumikas ang may 359, 680 residente ng Marawi at nanirahan sa evacuation centers. Hindi nila malilimutan ang limang buwang paninirahan na para bang kaytagal-tagal at hindi na matatapos ang paghihirap. Halos maisumpa nila ang kalagayan sa evacuation centers. Kahapon, ilang resi-

dente na ang nakabalik sa kani-kanilang bahay makaraang payagan ng military. Nanlumo 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 na-report 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 network kaya walang kaabug-abog na nakapasok sa Marawi ang Maute. Hindi nila natunugan na marami nang baril at bala ang nahakot at nakapaghukay pa ng tunnel ang mga terorista. Nagkulang din ang mga residente mismo sapagkat hindi sila naging vigilant. Isang aral ang nangyari sa kanila kaya hindi na iyon dapat maulit. Nagkaroon ng pagkukulang ang AFP at pati mga residente ng Marawi.

29 October 2017



Pahina. 4

### *Editorial*

## **Mga tumulong sa Maute, hanapin at pulbusin din**

**H**INDI pa masabi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kung kailan matatapos ang clearing operation sa main battle area sa Marawi City. Patuloy pa ang ginagawa nilang pagsasaliksik sa mga bahay-bahay doon at baka may nagtatago pang teroristang Maute. Maingat din nilang sinasaliksik ang bawat sulok at baka may nakabaon pang mga bomba. Huling napatay ng mga sundalo ang 40 terorista na nagtatago sa isang gusali. Bawat pang pumasok doon ang mga sibilyan. Ang mga sundalo ang magbibigay ng permiso sa residente kung kailan dapat bumalik doon.

Makaraang mapatay ang mga lider ng Maute noong nakaraang linggo, nawalan ng direksiyon ang mga terorista. Parang mga daga na hindi malaman kung saan susuling hanggang sa masukol sila sa isang gusali. Kabilang sa mga hulling napatay ang apat na dayuhan.

Walang pagsidlan sa tuwa ang may 360,000 evacuees nailimang buwang dumanas nang mahirap na kalagayan. Marami sa kanila ang nagsibalikan na sa kani-kanilang mga bahay at sinisimulan na nilang linisin. Mas okay daw sa sariling bahay nila kaysa evacuation centers na sobrang init at bumabaha naman kung malakas ang ulan.

Maaaring napatay na ang lahat ng Maute. Pero ang tanong ngayon, nasaan ang mga taong sumuporta at nag-finance sa mga terorista. Marami sila pero dala-wang tao pa lang ang naaresto na umano'y nagpifinance sa Maute. Isang lalaking taga-Valenzuela at isang taga-Novaliches ang inaresto noong nakaraang linggo. Pero maituturing na mga malilit na financier lamang ang mga ito na barya-barya lang ang itinutulong sa mga terorista. Ang dakmain ng AFP at PNP ay yung milyones ang ipini-finance na kayang bumili ng mga matataas na kalibre ng baril.

Ayon sa report, nakapasok ang Maute sa Marawi dahil sinuportahan ng mga malimpluwensiya at mayayamang tao roon. Naipasok ang mga matataas na kalibre ng baril at nakapaggawa ng mga tunnel. Kabisadung-kabisado rin nila kung saang gusali pupuwesto na para bang nakapag-survey na sila noon para maging matibay ang depensa.

Ang nararapat gawin ng AFP ay puspulang hanapin ang mga taong sumuporta sa Maute. Tiyak na marami ang financiers ng Maute. Kung hindi mahuhuli ang mga ito, maaaring mag-finance uli sila sa ibang teroristang grupo. Hanapin sila at durugin din gaya nang ginawa kina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.

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## ONLINE NEWS

30 OCTOBER 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

### Guerrero orders troops to finish off remaining threats

By Priam Nepomuceno October 29, 2017, 3:35 pm

**MANILA** -- Newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero ordered all troops to eradicate all threats to peace and security in the country.

In a statement Sunday, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said this move echoes President Rodrigo Duterte's order to eliminate lawless elements following the liberation of Marawi City from the hands of the Maute group.

"Lt. Gen. Guerrero welcomes his new responsibilities with strong momentum from his leadership of the Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC), a similarly tall order given the area's susceptibility from terror threats and insurgency," Arevalo said.

Guerrero, who is concurrently EMC Commander, was tasked to dismantle New People's Army (NPA) bands that are concentrated in the Davao Region, Caraga Region, and Northern Mindanao.

At the same time, he was also tasked to curb the spread of violence and terrorism in his area of responsibility, especially during the Marawi City siege.

"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 against lawless armed groups," Guerrero said in his assumption speech during the AFP change of command ceremonies on Thursday.

He also vowed to continue reform programs in the military, improve its capability, and revisit war-fighting doctrines in light of new "battlefield environments."

"We will aggressively implement our modernization program and fast-track the procurement of advanced weapons systems that provide cost-effective and precise target engagement, long-range and high-endurance unmanned systems, and modern air and naval platforms," he said.

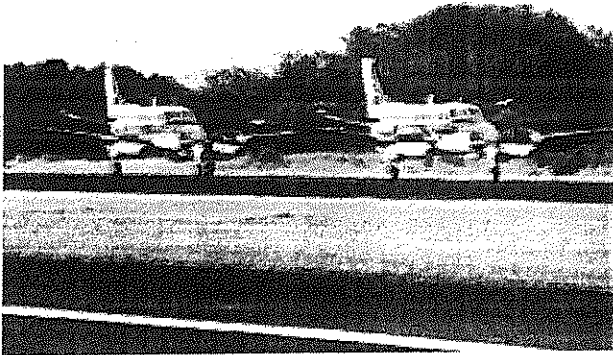
The new AFP chief also seeks to "refine internal processes including improvements on services and transparency and accountability of transactions".

"My gratitude knows no bounds, and I think that the best way to show our President and our countrymen is to serve our country with selfless dedication and to lead the AFP with purpose," Guerrero added. (PNA)

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

## **Japan donates 5 aircraft to Philippines**

From Update Philippines (Oct 29): Japan donates 5 aircraft to Philippines



The Japanese government has decided to officially donate the two currently being leased and three upcoming TC-90 aircraft to the Philippine Navy.

This was conveyed by Japanese Defense Minister Onodera to National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana during their bilateral meeting at the sidelines of 4th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus in Clark, Pampanga on October 23.

According to Japanese Ministry of Defense this is the first instance that excess defense equipment will be transferred to another country completely free of charge.

The earlier agreement between Japan and Philippines was a total of 5 TC-90 aircraft will be rented at a friendly price, however, with the change in Japanese regulations and request from Philippine government these aircraft will be given for free.

The first two aircraft arrived March 27 this year, while the additional 3 are expected to arrived March 2018.

These aircraft were provided by Japan to help Philippines monitor its vast maritime territories and also assist in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

## 2 PH naval pilots complete training in Japan

From Update Philippines (Oct 29): 2 PH naval pilots complete training in Japan

Two more Philippine Navy pilots from the naval air group have completed training at Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Tokushima Air Base in Tokushima Prefecture on October 20.

The training was in connection with the transfer of 5 TC-90 aircraft to the Philippine Navy.

JMSDF Air Training Command's 202 Air Training Squadron conducted the training.



JMSDF photo

The Philippines and Japan agreed for the training of six Filipino naval pilots in three batches. Each batch was composed of 90 hours training on ground and 170 hours aerial training.

The first batch started in November 2016 and ended March 2017.

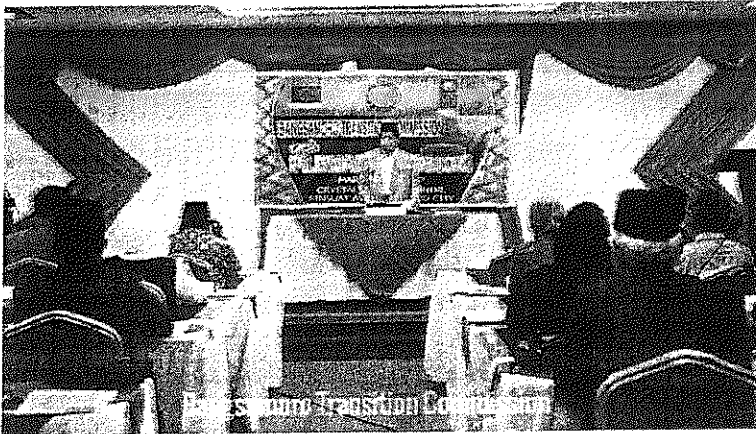
Moreover, Japanese Defense Minister Onodera conveyed to National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana at the sidelines of 4th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus in Clark, Pampanga that instead of leasing, the Japanese government will donate the five TC-90 aircraft.



## Transition commission postpones Bangsamoro Assembly

From Rappler (Oct 29): Transition commission postpones Bangsamoro Assembly

The Bangsamoro Transition Commission does not specify the reason for the postponement of the event, originally scheduled November 3 to 4



*POSTPONEMENT. The Bangsamoro Transition Commission postpones the Bangsamoro Assembly.*  
File photo from BTC Facebook page

The Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) announced Sunday, October 29, that the slated gathering of some 500,000 people for the Bangsamoro Assembly this week will be postponed.

"We regret to inform that due to reasons beyond our control, the said Bangsamoro Assembly has to be postponed," said Ghazali Jaafar, chairperson of the BTC, a commission tasked to draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

The BTC earlier set November 3 and 4 as the dates for the assembly, which aims to muster support from various sectors for the passage of the proposed BBL.

A revised version of the BBL was filed at the House of Representatives earlier this month.

The BBL is the culmination of a peace deal signed between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the administration of President Benigno Aquino III. Aquino had wanted it passed before he stepped down, but a botched police operation in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, in 2015 derailed its passage.

The BBL is among the measures expected to be prioritized by Congress this year.

Jaafar, also vice chairman of the MILF, said they are looking to hold the assembly in the 3rd week of November.

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

"In the meantime, all the preparatory works of the Standing Committees will continue," he said.

In an earlier announcement which has since been taken down from [Luwaran.com](http://Luwaran.com), the MILF had said it is expecting President Rodrigo Duterte to attend the assembly.

The event will take place at the old provincial capitol of Maguindanao in Sultan Kudarat.

www.pna.gov.ph

## **Marawi heroes honored in Fort Magsaysay**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 29): Marawi heroes honored in Fort Magsaysay

Maj. Gen. Felimon T. Santos, commander of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division (7ID, PA) led the hero's welcome for 79 -strong 72nd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) who served as rear defenders during the Marawi battle in ceremonies here Friday night.

"In going there, their task is to defend the rear. Ibig sabihin, pinu-protektahan nila ang likod upang hindi ma-reinforce ang kalaban (it means, they have been protecting the rear so that the enemies cannot reinforce) which is very important." Santos said. "especially in our military tactics."

"They've played their role, they've played it well," Santos stressed.

He said the company also conducted checkpoints to prevent Maute from moving from one place to another and cleared houses.

The company has even recovered 12 high powered-firearms, improvised explosive device, 16 radio communication equipment and based radio, one binocular, among others, during a clearing operation, he said.

Santos hailed that the troops, led by 1Lt. Beethoven Cabanlit, commanding officer, came home safe.

"Nandito sila nang buong-buo, walang kulang at wala ring sobra (They are here intact. No less, no more," the commanding general said.

Still, he expressed regret that the 7ID's Scout Ranger force had suffered a loss with the death of Private First Class Nesty Tecson and 69th Infantry Battalion had two wounded men.

Tecson, he said was killed by the enemy during the final assault.

Cabanlit, for his part, said they really had to fight the feeling of being away from their family and unfamiliarity with urban warfare.

"Natural sa amin yung nangungulilala but with the leadership of my fellow officers sinasabi ko sa kanila na palagi i-motivate yung mga tao natin (it is natural for us to yearn but with the leadership of my fellow officers, I have been telling them to always motivate our men)." he said.

With a green rosary on his right breast, Cabanlit said they had to pray before every operation.

"Itong rosary na ito symbolizes ang paniniwala sa Panginoon na kahit na anong hirap at suungin namin na panganib, pu-protektahan niya kami (This rosary symbolizes our faith in God that no matter how difficult or dangerous the situation is, He will protect us)." he said.

Private First Class Harold Luis, who served as an automatic rifleman, thanked God for protection as well

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

as his family and the government for support.

Another private first class named Manabat said that despite the tragedy he himself witnessed in Marawi, he would support the dream of his son, who came in fatigue uniform, to be a soldier in the future.

Santos said after debriefing, the soldiers would be given a month-long vacation.

He said while no one from the 72nd DRC was killed, they have witnessed and joined the rescue of wounded comrades. That sight, he said, was not easy for soldiers.