

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

01 September 2017

Friday

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

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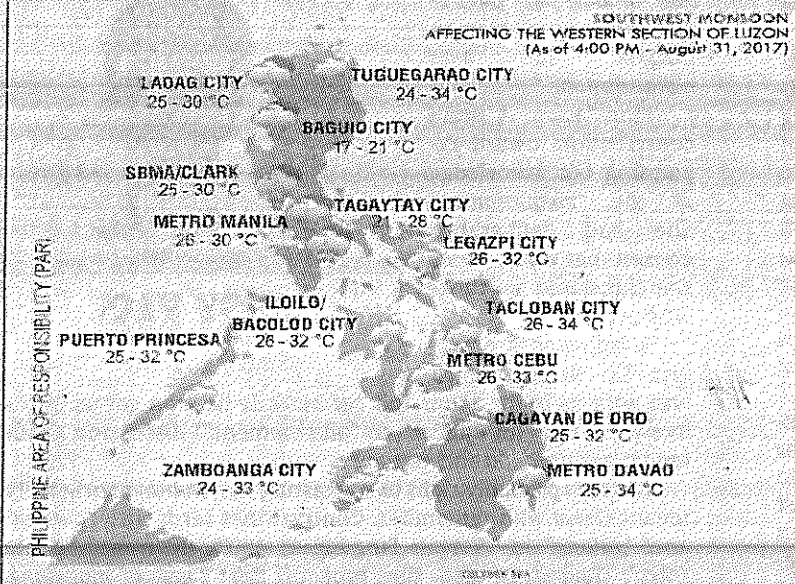




BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS



TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 | FRIDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING THE WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON
(As of 4:00 PM - August 31, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:44 AM	6:08 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
2:22 PM	1:13 AM
FIRST QUARTER AUG 29 6:49 PM	FULL MOON SEP 6 3:03 PM
LOW TIDE 2:33 PM 0.23 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 6:38 AM 1.90 Meter *
☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms ☁ Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN
☁ 25 - 31 °C	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 33 °C
☁ 25 - 31 °C	☁ 22 - 29 °C	☁ 22 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO
☁ 25 - 35 °C	☁ 26 - 32 °C	☁ 27 - 33 °C
☁ 25 - 35 °C	☁ 24 - 32 °C	☁ 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO
☁ 25 - 30 °C	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 31 °C
☁ 25 - 30 °C	☁ 25 - 34 °C	☁ 25 - 34 °C
BAGUIO	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA
☁ 16 - 22 °C	☁ 26 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 33 °C
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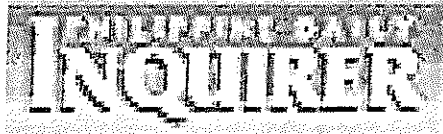
DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS HD

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

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2 SENATORS CLASH OVER DUTERTE SON

A heated exchange erupted after Trillanes accused Gordon, head of the blue ribbon committee, of whitewashing its probe of 'shabu' smuggling allegedly facilitated by the Davao Group.

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

Tempers flared when Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV on Thursday called the blue ribbon panel chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon a "comité de absuelto" (committee of exoneration).

The Senate committee's investigation of smuggling into the country of P6.4 billion worth of "shabu" (crystal meth) in May has led to the "Davao Group" that allegedly facilitated the smuggling. The group allegedly includes Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte and lawyer Maneses "Mans" Carpio.

Vice Mayor Duterte is President Duterte's son and Carpio his son-in-law.

The motion of Trillanes to summon the younger Duterte and Carpio to the Senate hearing triggered heated exchanges between him and



WORD WAR Senators Richard Gordon and Antonio Trillanes IV are pacified after their verbal exchange by Sen. Vicente Sotto III. —RICHARD A. REYES

Gordon and even Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

At the fifth committee hearing on the shabu smuggling, Gordon not only vowed to file an ethics case against Trillanes but also threatened

him with expulsion.

Trillanes said he would "welcome" the filing of an ethics case against him.

Gordon told Trillanes that he had been accusing everybody in the

Senate of many things and had tangled with some senators. Trillanes replied that he was accusing only Gordon.

Gordon then reiterated his threat to file an ethics case against Trillanes, telling him “to behave himself otherwise I will put the sergeant at arms before him.”

Trillanes said he was maintaining his objection to Gordon’s “irrational behavior” and “doing a one-man show for several hours.”

Gordon said Trillanes’ problem was “every time he does not like it, he will conduct a coup and he will be forgiven.”

Trillanes was a member of the Magdalo group of junior military officers who launched a mutiny against the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

He shot back at his colleague with a reminder that

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the latter was “even pathetic” for barricading himself at the Subic Freeport to hold on to his position as chair.

Trillanes was referring to an incident in which Gordon was being booted out as Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair during the Estrada administration.

The last exchange prompted Sotto to move for a suspension of the hearing to allow things to cool down.

Customs ‘fixer’

Trillanes asked the committee to invite the President’s eldest son and son-in-law after a Bureau of Customs (BOC) “fixer,” Mark Taguba, testified that he had sent to his contact “Tita Nani” text messages that implicated Vice Mayor Duterte and Carpio to the Davao Group.

Taguba said he gave a total of P8 million to the Davao Group—P5 million to Davao City Councilor Nilo “Small” Abellera Jr. as “enrollment fee”; P1-million advance to a certain Jack and another P2 million for Vice Mayor Duterte who Jack said was concerned about the way the group of Taguba’s father was transacting business.

Taguba helped smuggle into the country the 604 kilograms of shabu from China in May.

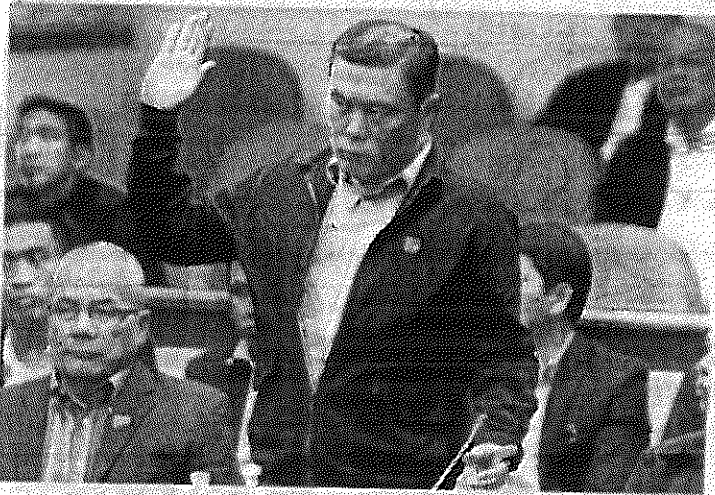
Trillanes said the committee had “enough information that would warrant the invitation for both Mans Carpio and Paolo Duterte to this committee hearing.”

But Trillanes also noted that he had overheard Sotto, who was at the hearing, that Taguba’s statements were “hearsay.”

The senator then told Sotto that the committee was “not a court” but “an investigative body.”

Lawyering for Paolo

“We are just establishing the truth. We are ferreting out the truth. Let them defend themselves. Let’s not lawyer for them,” Trillanes said, angering Sotto, who denied he was lawyering for the younger Duterte and Carpio.



Nilo "Small" Abellera Jr. —RICHARD A. REYES

Sotto explained that he was saying in the background that the committee should study Trillanes' motion because the statements about the two men were hearsay.

"It does not mean 'no' (to the invitation). Don't accuse me," he said.

Trillanes said he wanted the younger Duterte and Carpio invited so they could clear their names "unless (the two men) are being treated by this committee as sacred cows."

As he repeated his motion, Trillanes also wondered why "suddenly" the witness was being badgered.

"Are you accusing the chair or Senator Sotto of badgering the witness?" Gordon asked Trillanes, who replied

"if you feel alluded to."

Gordon then told Trillanes that he was "fond of making general statements" as he reminded that the hearing was not a "cockpit of rumors." He then suspended the hearing after telling Trillanes that he was "out of order."

But Trillanes said "the blue ribbon committee is becoming a comité de absuelto."

When the hearing resumed, Gordon quizzed Abellera on Taguba's testimony during the previous hearing that he personally handed him P5 million as "enrollment fee" for joining the Davao Group.

Abellera confirmed that he had met only once with Taguba through a certain Jack at a Davao City restaurant bar in January but denied he accepted money from him.

Both Abellera and Taguba said they did not know the last name of Jack, and Gordon said he wondered why Abellera would meet with Jack and even keep his phone number without knowing the man's last name.

Taguba said Abellera had told him that he should remit money to the Davao Group properly.

Carpio on Tuesday called Trillanes a rumormonger after the senator accused him of being behind the Davao Group. Vice Mayor Duterte did not respond to the senator's latest accusation against him. INQ

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Ombudsman drops Rody from DDS probe

Morales inhibited from Davao death squad case

By ELIZABETH MARCELO

A special panel of investigators from the Office of the Ombudsman has dropped President Duterte from among the respondents in the multiple criminal cases filed late last year by self-confessed hit man Edgar Matobato.

The reason for Duterte's exclusion was not immediately known. The President is immune from suit while in office, but he can be investigated in a criminal case.

In a chance interview on the sidelines of the 2017 Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony in Pasay City yesterday, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales confirmed that the fact-finding stage on Matobato's complaint had been finished and the complaint is now up for formal preliminary investigation.

"I have inhibited myself in the case because one of those who were charged by Matobato was the President. So, naturally, I inhibited. Now, I will confirm that it came to my knowledge that (a) preliminary investigation has been set," Morales said.

Morales had earlier stated she would inhibit from any investigation by her office against Duterte

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Ombudsman From Page 1

as she and the President are related by marriage: she is aunt-in-law of Duterte's daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio. Sara's husband, Manases Carpio, is a son of Morales' brother Lucas Carpio Jr. and Court of Appeals Justice Agnes Reyes-Carpio. An insider from the ombudsman, as well as Matobato's lawyer Jude Josue Sabio, confirmed to The STAR that

Duterte was indeed dropped from the case.

During the interview, however, Morales did not say why Duterte was dropped from the complaints.

Sabio said three criminal cases were transmitted by the ombudsman special panel for preliminary investigation – one involves the murder and kidnapping of former soldier

Jun Bersabal in 1993, the murder of radio broadcaster Jun Pala in 2003 and the torture of Matobato by a group of policemen led by Senior Police Officer 1 Reynante Medina.

Sabio said that although Duterte was not originally included in Matobato's torture complaint, the President was named by his client as mastermind in the killings of Bersabal and Pala, which were allegedly carried out by the so-called Davao death squad (DDS), a vigilante group allegedly put

up by Duterte during his term as mayor of Davao City.

"I presume it is because of his presidential immunity, which I think does not apply because the criminal incidents happened while he was still mayor," Sabio said.

"I intend to call out the ombudsman about the non-inclusion of Duterte, because he was directly pointed as the mastermind in the Bersabal and Pala incidents," he added.

In a complaint he filed in December 2016, Matobato

urged the ombudsman to investigate Duterte for possible crimes of murder, kidnapping, complex crime of kidnapping with murder, torture and other crimes against humanity.

This served as the first complaint filed against Duterte since he assumed the presidency on June 30, 2016.

Also included as respondents in Matobato's original complaint were Duterte's son Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General

Ronald dela Rosa and 25 former and incumbent police officers and city government officials.

Sabio said he was not yet privy to the specific individuals who now serve as respondents in the complaints up for preliminary investigation by the ombudsman.

He said he had already filed two motions before the ombudsman asking for a copy of the formal complaints filed by the Ombudsman Special Panel of Investigators for preliminary investigation.

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

BIFF leader killed in Mamasapano clash

MAGUINDANAO – A sub-leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) was killed while another bandit was wounded in a firefight with soldiers in Mamasapano town on Wednesday.

The fatality was identified as a certain Darco, who was with the group of Imam Bongos, one of the three leaders of the BIFF. A certain Bitok was wounded.

Soldiers of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion were responding to the reported presence of gunmen harassing residents of Barangay Tukanalipao when the clash occurred.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana of the Army's 6th Civil-Military Operations Battalion said a rocket launcher, a fragmentation grenade and a shotgun were recovered from the bandits.

– John Unson

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The Manila Times

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BIFF sub-leader killed in Mamasapano clash

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Philippine Army soldiers shot dead a senior member of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and wounded another in an encounter on Wednesday in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

The Army's 40th Infantry Battalion (IB) was patrolling in Barangay Tukanalipao when BIFF gunmen led by sub-commander Darco and certain "Bitok" attacked them, triggering the clash.

Darco, a key follower of Imam Bongos, leader of one of three factions in the BIFF, was killed in the initial exchange of gunfire that also wounded Bitok, according to the police.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana of the Army's 6th Civil-Military Operations Battalion said members of the 40th IB recovered from the scene a rocket launcher, a fragmentation grenade and a shotgun that the fleeing BIFF militants left behind as they retreated.

The troops found scattered along the escape route of the fleeing BIFF gunmen materials for improvised explosive devices.

The BIFF group that clashed with soldiers was on its way to Datu Piang to reinforce their comrades that guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have been trying to neutralize since August 1.

The MILF is locked in a bloody conflict with a third faction in the BIFF, led by Esmael Abdulmalik.

The MILF's offensive against Abdulmalik and

his men was launched in accordance with its peace agreement with the government – the March 27, 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro. **JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**

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Army says 70% of NPAs in Mindoro are Mangyan

By **JERRY J. ALCAYDE**

CALAPAN CITY Oriental Mindoro — The military has claimed that 70 percent of New People's Army

(NPA) guerrillas operating in the whole of Mindoro island belong to the indigenous Mangyan tribes who allegedly joined the communist movement due to monetary considerations and false promises to them by NPA leaders.

Newly promoted Brigadier General Antonio G. Parlade Jr., commander of the Philippine Army's 203rd Infantry Brigade (203rd IB) based in Mindoro, said the Mangyan people who joined the NPAs are given a monthly compensation of ₱3,000 and a sack of rice.

Parlade said the Mangyan were allegedly fed with anti-government propaganda while exploiting their legitimate demands such as ancestral land claims and human rights abuses.

He cited this intelligence information at a dialog with construction firm owners and managers held last Tuesday at the conference room of the Oriental Mindoro Police Provincial Office (PPO), where he revealed that the NPA has 63

armed combatants on the island.

Senior Superintendent Christopher C. Birung, provincial director (PD) of the Oriental Mindoro PPO, said the dialog was intended primarily to encourage road and other engineering contractors which were given contracts by the government to report to authorities any and all forms of extortion by the NPA.

Birung said there had been incidents of torching or destroying of heavy engineering equipment in Oriental Mindoro in the past particularly in Bulalacao and Mansalay, two remotest towns in southern Mindoro where one Kilusang Larangang Guerilya identified as Prado operates.

Most of those incidents could have been prevented if the owners of construction firms immediately reported to the proper authorities the attempts of NPAs who usually send extortion letters before they resort to violent attacks, Birung said.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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• **NPA yields**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – A heavily armed member of the New People's Army (NPA) voluntarily surrendered to Army authorities in Bukidnon province, regional Army spokesman Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez on Thursday said. The NPA rebel, identified as "Ka Brendo," a regular member of North-Central Mindanao Regional Committee operating in Bukidnon province, yielded an M16 Armalite rifle and dozens of live ammunitions for M16 Armalite rifle. The NPA rebel voluntarily surrendered to the 1st Special Forces Battalion. He is set to be enlisted in the government's Comprehensive Local Integration Program or CLIP to avail of the P15,000 cash in exchange for his surrendered high powered fire arm and another P15,000 livelihood assistance. Capt. Martinez said "Ka Brendo" is the first NPA rebel who responded to the call of newly installed commanding general of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva "to come down and avail the government's livelihood, peace and development program". (Mike U. Crismundo)

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7 killed in ASG clash with Sulu clan

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

A firefight between members of a clan and an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists resulted in the death of seven people on Wednesday, a military official disclosed.

Army Col. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Joint Task Force Sulu, said the firefight transpired be-

tween the feuding clan of Jul Hamidi of Brgy. Upper Kamuntayan, Talipao, Sulu against an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf personalities led by Al Arod, son of ASG sub-leader Arod Wahing in Sitio Kan Hassan, Brgy. Bud Bunga of the same municipality, at 12:45 p.m.

Sobejana said Jul Hamidi, Kaidal Sayyari, and a certain Juddama were killed while two others one of which was identified as Hatib Jamih were wounded.

On the other hand, four Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the firefight, three of them were identified as Al Arod (son of Arod Wahing), a certain Kiram, and a certain Awa.

The ASG later disengaged and withdrew towards the nearby thickly forested area leaving their dead members while bringing along their wounded.

Elements of the 21st IB conducted pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

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Pahina. 6

MILF pinuri ng militar

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Pinuri ng militar ang rebeldeng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) dahil umano sa kooperasyon nito sa patuloy na operasyon ng pamahalaan laban sa Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) na kaalyado ng Islamic State.

"The cooperation of the MILF leadership in adhering to the provisions of the ceasefire agreement

was also acknowledged as the conduct of the military operations had been coordinated to ensure that no skirmishes between the government troops and BIAF occurred," pahayag pa ni Major General Arnel dela Vega, ang commander ng 6th Infantry Division.

Ang BIAF ay acronym ng Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, ang military wing ng MILF. Ang pahayag ni De-

la Vega ay lumabas matapos na hindi nakialam ang MILF sa sagupaan sa pagitan ng militar at BIFF kamakalawa sa Barangay Tukanalipao sa bayan ng Masapano sa magulong lalawigan ng Maguindanao.

Isang BIFF ang nasawi at isang sundalo rin ang sugatan sa labanan sa bayan na kilalang kuta ng MILF at BIFF Nabawirin ng militar sa BIFF ang mga armas at bala. (AJ)

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Marawi's fate in AFP's hands

Duterte leaves to military option whether or not to bomb mosques

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

“We can't have a stalemate for over year.” President Duterte stressed this Wednesday night as he finally left to the military the option whether or not to carry out bombing runs on mosques where members of the Maute Group are believed holed up.

“Matagal na ‘yan sa on deck na talagang gusto bobombahin ang (It has always been an option to bomb the) mosque to capture or **►20**”

Marawi's fate in...

◀1

kill the leaders there and in the process, sacrifice [the] hostages who are all Filipinos, maybe Maranaos and a mingling of Christians, Tagalog, nandiyan (there)," he said.

"The last time I was there, that would be around five days ago, six days ago, I finally said, 'The option is already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year'." Duterte said in his speech during the 23rd anniversary celebration of the Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Taguig City Wednesday night.

Duterte admitted he was the reason the war is taking so long as he was against bombing mosques.

"Sabi ko, 'Ayaw ko' Kaya natagalan 'yan, sabi ko, 'Huwag, mahirap 'yan' (I said I don't want that. It is taking so long because that puts us in a difficult position)," he added.

The President stressed that he does not want to bomb the mosques as it will just create more animosity and outright hostility in the government.

"Ayaw ko talagang pumayag (I really do not agree with this). It will generate more hatred instead of healing. Pero matagal na kasi (But it's taking too long already), it's out of my hands already," the President added.

But Duterte revealed that senators had told him that there would be a time that he would have to stop preventing the AFP from doing such moves.

The President then disclosed that he is now leaving the option to the AFP.

In a command a command confer-

ence with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), Duterte likewise tackled the armed conflict in Marawi City, which entered its 100th day Wednesday.

According to Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, the PNP gave Duterte security updates for the Philippines' hosting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meet in Clark, Pampanga, in November.

The President also received updates on the PNP's internal cleansing effort, and the recent success on the PNP's anti-insurgency efforts or operations against the New People's Army.

For the part of the AFP, Abella said Duterte was provided an update on current operations in Marawi, the implementation of martial law in the entire Mindanao, and AFP's support to the anti-drug operations of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

"PRRD was also briefed on the entirety of current security threats confronting the nation," Abella said.

The Palace official also said that the AFP also pursued its recommendation for the mobilization of additional 5,000 warm bodies for its current security campaigns.

Duterte, in turn, provided his guidance and reiterated his support for the AFP and the PNP, and reassured them that he will pursue the capability build up of both the AFP and the PNP.

"He shared that it is to the interest of the nation to have a strong police

force and military component to ensure the nation and its interests are secured," Abella said.

"He also reiterated his guidance to the PNP to observe all protocols in the

enforcement of the law and effecting an arrest," he added.

The armed conflict with the pro-Islamic State (ISIS) Maute Group in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, started

on May 23, 2017. This prompted Duterte to declare a 60-day martial law in Mindanao which was eventually given a five-month extension by the Congress.

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More bomb experts deployed in Marawi

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

The Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday ordered the deployment of additional bomb experts in Marawi City as the government wraps up its operations against Maute terrorists.

The move is in compliance with President Duterte's directive to prevent casualties as government forces clear the area of improvised explosive devices that could have been planted by the terrorists.

Camilo Pancratius Cascolan, PNP directorate for operations head, said he directed the Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD)/K9 Group to send their per-

sonnel to Marawi.

Senior Superintendent Remedio Gregorio, who heads the EOD/K9 Group, said they have 23 bomb experts and six K-9 dogs.

Gregorio said their bomb experts, many of whom underwent training in the United States, are equipped and ready for the job.

Military officials said the fighting in Marawi is expect-

ed to end soon, noting that remnants of the Maute terror group are running low on food and ammunition. The fighting entered its 100th day on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, an all-female unit of police and military personnel sent to Marawi to assist evacuees started work yesterday.

The 40 policewomen and 62 female soldiers, who arrived on Tuesday, were deployed to various evacuation centers in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Iligan City.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said the female

security personnel would focus on relief and rehabilitation.

"Having policewomen and female soldiers at evacuation sites to augment workers and volunteers attending to the needs of our displaced people is very touching. We are grateful," Zia Alonto Adiong of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) regional assembly said.

John Magno, ARMM education secretary, said they are willing to accept volunteers from the female security personnel to assist evacuees studying at temporary learning centers. — With John Unson

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'GIRL POWER'

EVACUEES WELCOME HIJAB-WEARING TROOPS

By Divina Suson
@inquirermindanao

ILIGAN CITY—Female soldiers and police wearing hijab are a hit in evacuation centers here.

Maia Macarambon, camp manager of the provincial evacuation center, said she was excited to work with the hijab-wearing female soldiers and police who were deployed here earlier this week.

The 102-strong all-woman company from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police will provide psychosocial services for the thousands of resi-

dents of Marawi City displaced by the fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

"It's girl power. I have no qualms with the male troopers, but I expect that being women ... they will understand more ... the feelings of not only the children but also of the women in the evacuation center," Macarambon said. She manages an evacuation center sheltering 200 families here.

"I know they can make a change in the lives of the evacuees, and will help the displaced [people] think that despite the war, it is not the end yet. I hope they

can give them ideas that there is still life after the war," she said.

Macarambon said the deployment of the all-woman civil relations company was a good gesture for the mostly Muslim evacuees.

"I love it. It's good that they respect our culture. Despite of what is happening, the government still respects us," she said.

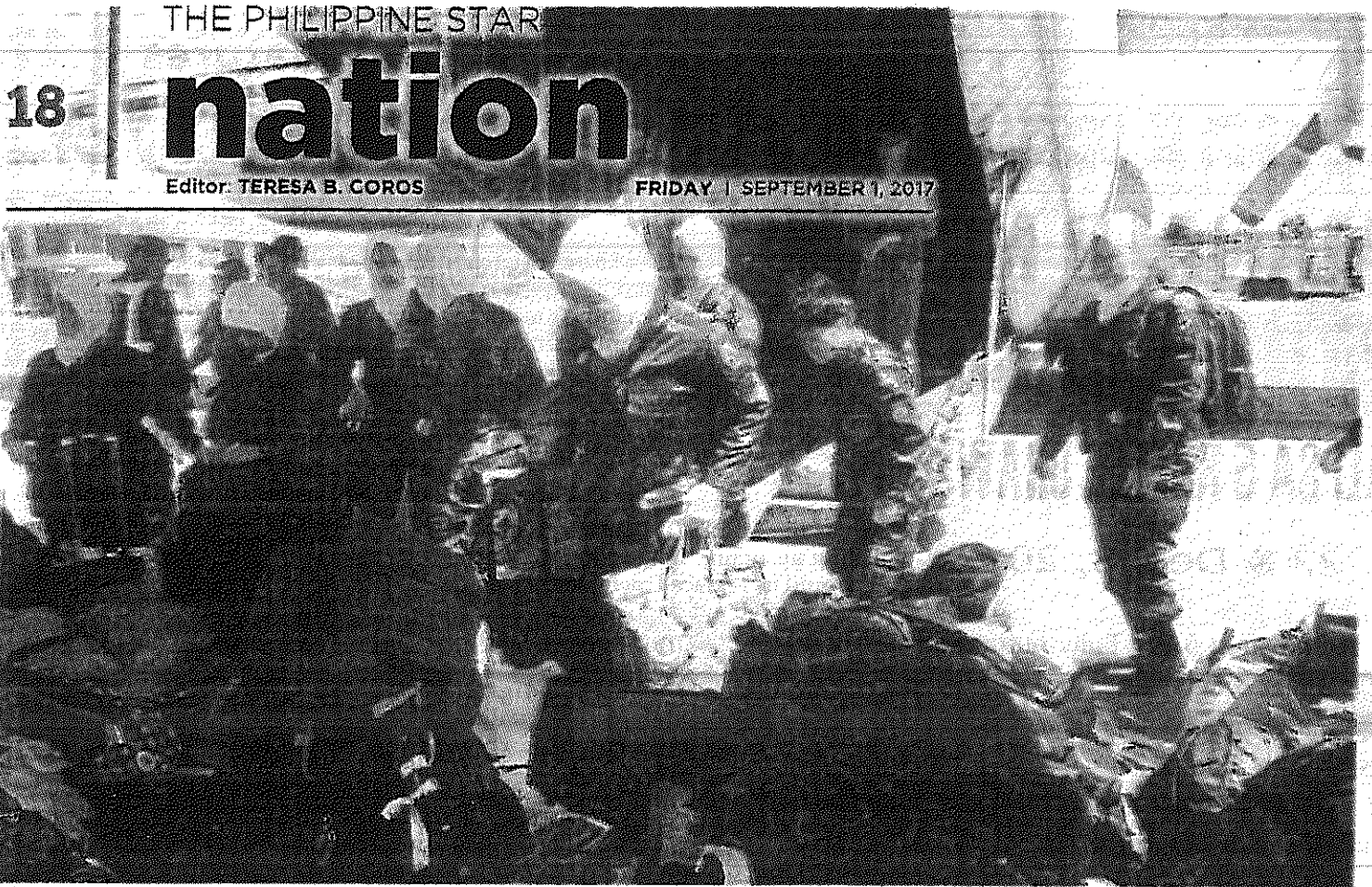
"Almost all the Maranaos were hurt when our city was bombed, and most of them think that President Duterte is angry [with] us," she said.

"At least now ... we know that the government still cares for us and respects us," she added. INQ

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An all-female unit of police and military personnel arrives at the Laguindingan airport in Cagayan de Oro on Tuesday to assist evacuees from Marawi.

JOHN UNSON

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AFP slowly shifting to rehab mode in Marawi

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday said Task Force Bangon Marawi has made headway in the rehabilitation and recovery programs they have planned for residents affected by the Marawi siege.

Lorenzana made the comment as the rebellion in war-torn Marawi entered its 100th day Wednesday, even as troops continue to mount their offensives against cornered leaders and members of the Maute-Daesh group.

“The entire government continues to consult, coordinate and partner with various sectors, particularly the traditional, political and religious leaders in the locality. Most importantly, we are working with the internally displaced persons (IDPs) themselves, our Maranao brothers and sisters, who are as eager as we are to start a new life, and chart a better future for their beloved city,” Lorenzana said in a statement.

“Mga kababayan, ipagpatuloy natin ang pagsuporta at pagdarasal para sa ating mga sundalo at mga kapatid na

Maranao (To our our people, let us continue supporting and praying for our troops and our Maranao brothers). Together, let us do our share not only in rebuilding Marawi but also in fighting radicalism and terrorism so that peace will reign in our land,” he added.

Lorenzana said as fighting entered its 100th day, in such a short time, violent extremism and terrorism claimed countless number of lives, damaged properties, and shattered a thriving city with rich customs and traditions.

“The fighting spared no one – Muslims and Christians alike, combatants and non-combatants, young and old. It has displaced hundreds of thousands of residents,” the Defense secretary said.

According to the latest report coming from the AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), a total of 617 Maute terrorists have so far been killed as of 7 p.m. Tuesday.

The number of firearms recovered (both high and low powered) meanwhile, has already reached 667.

The number of soldiers and policemen killed in the Marawi conflict is currently pegged at 133.

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Manila Standard

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Du30 gives AFP free hand to rid Marawi of holdouts

By John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has given the military a free hand to rid Marawi of the remaining Islamic State-inspired terrorists who overran the city on May 23.

In a speech Wednesday night in Taguig City, Duterte said the ongoing stalemate in Marawi City, which would enter its

101st day Thursday, would have to come to an end soon.

"The last time I was there, that would be around five, six days ago, I finally said that. The option is already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year," Duterte said during the 23rd anniversary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Next page

Du30...

From A4

Duterte admitted that the siege lasted long because he turned down the military plan to bomb the mosque where the terrorists were holed up with their hostages.

"So if you ask why it took us so long to finish that siege? It's because I copped out," he said in Filipino. "I could not accept it."

He said bombing the remaining areas where the terrorists were hiding would "just create more animosity and outright hostility against the government."

"The Maranaos will not forgive us. My instructions before were to slow down," the President said.

In the same speech, Duterte also revealed that he sent an emissary to talk to the terrorists about releasing their remaining hostages.

Earlier in the week, Duterte told Maranao youngsters that he would end the Marawi siege in the next three to four days, as he gave the military a deadline to wind up its operations.

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANIL PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA ₱8.00

2

SA PLANONG BOMBAHIN ANG MOSQUE

Duterte sa militar: The option is already yours

Nina ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS, JUN FABON, at FER TABOY

Inamin ni Pangulong Rordrigo Duterte na siya ang dahilan kung bakit natatagalan ang paglipol ng puwersa ng gobyerno sa mga terorista ng Maute Group sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, kaya naman umabot na sa 100 araw ang bakbakan nitong Miyerkules.

Sa kanyang speech sa ika-23 anibersaryo ng Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) sa Taguig City nitong Miyerkules ng gabi, sinabi ni Duterte na ayaw niyang bombahin ang mga mosque dahil higit lang na magkakagulo

"Matagal na 'yan sa on deck na talagang gusto bobombahin ang mosque to capture or kill the leaders there and in the process, sacrifice [the] hostages who are all Filipinos, maybe Maranaos and a mingling of Christians. Tagalog, nandiyan," sabi ni Pangulong Duterte.

"Sabi ko, 'ayaw ko' Kaya natagalan 'yan, sabi ko, 'Huwag, mahrap 'yan,'" dagdag niya.

Gayunman, binanggit ng

Pangulo na sinabihan siya ng ilang senador na darating ang panahon na kailangan na niyang tigilan ang pagsaway sa militar sa mga plano nitong gawin.

Sinabi ni Duterte na ipinaubaya na niyang lahat ngayon sa militar ang mga magiging hakbangin nito laban sa Maute

"The last time I was there (Marawi), that would be around five days ago, six days ago, I finally said, 'The option is already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year,'" sabi ni Duterte "Ayaw ko talagang pumayag (sa pambobomba sa mosque) It will generate more hatred instead of healing. Pero matagal na kasi, it's out of my hands already."

DELIKADO SA RESBAK

Sa pagkamatay kamakailan ng ama ng Maute Brothers na si Cayamora Maute ay nangamba ang militar sa resbak ng mga terorista, at baka umabot pa ng isang taon ang bakbakan sa Marawi.

Sa pagsapit ng bakbakan sa

Marawi sa ika-100 araw, dumalo ang Pangulo sa command conference kasama ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP) para sa security updates

Ayon sa huling report ng AFP-Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), may kabuuang 617 miyembro ng Maute ang napatay, habang may kabuuang 667 armas ng kaaway ang nakumpiska

Nasa 133 naman ang nasawi sa panig ng gobyerno, habang may 40 pa ang bihag ng mga terorista sa mosque

IED, CHILD WARRIORS

Una nang inihayag ng AFP na nahihirapan sila dahil bukod sa mga nakatanim na improvised explosive device (IED) ay gumagamit pang "child warrior" ang Maute Group kahit pa nasa 500 square meters na lamang ang distansiya ng militar sa kuta ng mga kalaban sa Marawi

Ayon kay Capt Joan Petinglay, tagapagsalita ng Joint Task Force Marawi, nasa edad 10-15 ang mga batang mandirigma ng Maute

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Duterte: AFP to decide on mosque strikes

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Jeffrey Maitem
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte has changed his mind and now wants the military to decide whether to bomb mosques in Marawi where Islamic State-inspired terrorists are holed up to end the battle for control of the city.

Speaking at the 23rd anniversary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) on Wednesday night, Mr. Duterte said the siege of Marawi was prolonged because he had stopped a plan to bomb the mosques to capture or kill the leaders of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists who had occupied the Muslim houses of prayer.

A direct attack could damage the mosques and the hostages held by the terrorists could be killed.

"I said, 'No, it will just create more animosity and outright hostility in the government. The Maranaos will not forgive us,'" Mr. Duterte said.

He said he directed the military to go slow in retaking Marawi.

The result has been a stalemate, he said, adding that some senators have told him that at some time he will have to stop reining in the military.

The President said that during his last visit to Marawi, he told the military that the matter was in its hands.

"The last time I was there, that would be around five days ago, six days ago, I finally said, 'The option is already yours, because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year,'" he added.

Mr. Duterte also said he wanted to seek the release of the hostages held by the terrorists and that he had sent someone who could "save the day for all of us."

"I have my limits even if I am President. That's all I could do, I cannot go beyond that," he said.

The military took Marawi's Grand Mosque from the terrorists last week without damaging it.

It used enveloping fire that forced the terrorists to flee the mosque.

The terrorists, however, took their hostages with them.

But the military is not moving in on other mosques to put an end to the conflict.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the military's Western Mindanao Command, said assaulting the mosques would anger the people of Marawi and it would make more enemies for the government.

"We will not bomb the

mosques where the enemies are hiding along with their hostages. As much as possible, we want to save the lives of hostages," Petinglay told the Inquirer on Thursday.

"If we do that, the problem of extremism will worsen and we will gain more enemies," she said.

Brig. Gen. Milquiades Ordiales, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, told reporters on Thursday that the terrorists had holed up in mosques with their hostages since the early days of the crisis.

"That has made it difficult for us, because we do not bomb or shoot mosques. We really have to preserve [them]. Some were hit by bullets but not because the intention was to destroy it. But in the future, you will see how we tried to preserve the mosques," Ordiales said.

Thursday marked the 101st day of the fighting, which has killed nearly 800, including 617 terrorists, 133 soldiers and police, and 45 civilians.

The military said the terrorists were contained in a few-hundred-square-meter pocket of the city, holed up in buildings and mosques and holding about 50 civilians as hostages.

Among the hostages is Fr. Teresito Suganob, the vicar general of Marawi. INQ

With Marawi crisis in final stages Maute might target Manila -- Duterte

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has not discounted the possibility that the ISIS-inspired Maute group might target Manila as he pointed out that the three-month battle against the Islamic terrorists in Marawi City is now in its final stages. /Page 6

MAUTE... From Page 1

Duterte said that other southern cities with large Muslim populations, including his hometown of Davao, were vulnerable. He said Manila might also be a target.

Duterte on Wednesday warned that, even with the Marawi battle over, the militants could still launch attacks elsewhere in the Philippines, particularly in the strife-torn south where the country's Muslim minority is based.

The southern regions of the Philippines have long been troubled by armed-Muslim bands including separatist guerrillas and outlaws, some of whom have gravitated towards IS.

Duterte gave his assessment shortly after government troops secured a vital bridge in Marawi city, allowing them easier access into areas being held by the militants.

"We are in the final stages. So let us send immediately, even air-lift, the police," to Marawi, Duterte said.

Duterte and security analysts have said the militants carried out the assault in an effort to establish a Southeast Asian base for IS.

Hours before Duterte spoke, soldiers in Marawi secured the Mapandi

bridge, a vital supply route which had once been menaced by militant snipers and rocket-propelled grenades.

Soldiers marched across the bridge on Wednesday in large numbers, although gunfire could still be heard nearby.

Duterte said he would leave it to his men in the Armed Forces of the Philippines the implementation of the process that will end the crisis in Marawi City.

He issued the statement on the 100th day of the armed conflict between government troops and the ISIS-inspired Maute group.

Duterte, who was at the 23rd anniversary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, reiterated that he disapproved of the military's plan to bomb the mosque where the terrorists and their captives are holed up.

"But up to this time, there is a stalemate and 'yung iba naman nagsabi 'yung mga senador, 'You know, Mayor, there has to be a time when you have to stop.' Stopping the Armed Forces," he said.

"Yung the last time I was there, that would be around five days ago, six days ago, I finally said na ano, 'The option is already yours because we cannot have a stalemate for over one year,'" he added.

But Duterte also revealed that he sent an emissary to talk to the terrorists about releasing their hostages.

"Pero kung sabi ko lang na ano, kung sana makiusap na lang tayo na lumabas na lang and free the hostages, do not harm them, do not cut their heads because mag-init lalo," he said.

"I mean, kung makita niyo 'yung sundalo, it's gonna be a bloodbath. But still up to this time, I have sent somebody na we could save the day for all of us. But I have my limits even if I am President, hanggang diyan lang ako. I cannot go beyond that," he added.

Duterte argued that bombing the mosque would only create hatred among those affected and involved in the siege.

"Ayaw ko talagang pumayag na lusubin and in the process, bombahan mo 'yung... I cannot. It will generate more hatred instead of healing. Pero matagal na kasi, it's out of my hands already," he said.

"Nagtaas na ako ng kamay because a lot of people in government were already complaining - the police, the military and the civilians. Pati 'yung mga civilian leader nandiyan sa grounds sa Marawi," he added.

The President even pointed out that it was his cowardice that prolonged the conflict.

"So if you ask why it took us so long to finish that siege? It's because ako ang nag - ako 'yung nag-talaw [copped out], ako 'yung... Hindi ko kaya eh. I cannot just accept that kind of na... For what? For what?" he said.

Meanwhile, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., upon the announcement of regaining control of the Grand Mosque, said the task was done meticulously for a month because the troops were not allowed to bomb the religious structure.

Padilla said there were only about 40 militants left in Marawi, confined to a space about half a square kilometer wide.

But Padilla warned there were many buildings in that space where they could be hiding, while a local commander said fierce fighting was still to be expected.

"Every inch of the buildings that we take, they resist," Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales told reporters who accompanied the soldiers across the bridge.

The militants have been able to withstand the military assault, which has included a relentless US-backed bombing campaign, by hiding in tunnels and bunkers.

They are also believed still to be holding hostages, including a Catholic priest.

Friday, September 1, 2017 **3**

Maute terror group eyes bigger targets

By Efren Montano

METRO Manila could be a target of the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute terror group.

President Rodrigo Duterte has not discounted the possibility of the terrorists targeting the national capital region even as he pointed out that the three-month battle against Islamic group supporters in Marawi city is now in its final stages.

Duterte said that other southern cities with large Muslim populations, including his hometown of Davao, were vulnerable. He said Manila might also be a target.

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Duterte said he would leave it to the Armed Forces of the Philippines how to end the crisis in Marawi City.

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Duterte, who was at the 23rd anniversary celebration of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, reiterated that he disapproved of the military's plan to bomb the mosque where the terrorists and their captives are holed up.

"But up to this time, there is a stalemate and 'yung iba naman, nagsabi 'yung mga senador, 'You know, Mayor, there has to be a time when you have to stop. Stopping the Armed Forces,'" he said.

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"Nagtaas na ako ng kamay because a lot of people in government were already complaining—the police, the military and the civilians. Pati 'yung mga civilian leaders nandiyan sa grounds sa Marawi," he added.

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STRATEGIC PLANNER

AFP SPOKESPERSON PROMOTED

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. has been appointed as the military's new deputy chief of staff for plans and programs or J5, the AFP announced on Thursday.

Padilla will be on top of the formulation of the military's strategic plans and programs.

His office also serves as the overseer of international military affairs.

"It is responsible for all strategies, plans and policy recommendations in support of the AFP Chief of Staff's command thrusts and priorities across the spectrum of the AFP's mission areas," the military said.

Padilla will relinquish his post as the assistant deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations or AJ7, but will remain as the military spokesperson.

An Air Force pilot, Padilla has more than 2,800 flight hours to his credit. INQ

01 September 2017

The Manila Times

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AFP spokesman gets new key post

THE spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has assumed one of the key positions within the military on Thursday.

Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr is the new AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans (J5) but will remain as the official spokesman for the military.

He replaced Maj. Gen. Guillermo Molina Jr, who is set to hang his uniform on September 5.

Padilla, an Air Force pilot, is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985 and is the batchmate of Southern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, who recently took over the position.

The J5 is the AFP's lead policy and strategy formulator, strategic planner and overseer of international military affairs. It is also responsible for all strategies, plans and policy recommendations supporting the AFP Chief of Staff.

Prior to this position, Padilla was the assistant deputy chief of staff for Civil-Military Operations (J7), which he handled since November 2014.

He was formerly the AFP Liaison Officer of the United States Pacific Command in Hono-

lulu, Hawaii from 2011 to 2014.

Upon graduation from the PMA, Padilla entered the Philippine Air Force and earned his Aviator (Pilot) Wings from the PAF Flying School in 1987.

He is also an academic instructor, having completed his Academic Instructor Training at the Air University in Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

The concurrent military spokesman obtained his master's degree in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management.

This is not the first time Padilla will be entering the office of J5 since he was formerly the chief of its International Affairs Division.

He is a recipient of awards and commendations from the military and civilian sectors including the Distinguished Aviation Cross, the highest award for an airman in the Philippine Air Force for "superb and gallant airmanship in a rescue and recovery incident."

Among his priorities in his new position, Padilla said, are international relations and capability development. **DEMPSEY REYES**

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Military spokesman named deputy chief of staff for J5

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. was promoted as incoming deputy chief of staff for plans and programs of J5 of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, Padilla is currently the assistant deputy chief of staff for civil military operations of J7 and concurrent spokesman.

Padilla has been the assistant J7 since November 2014.

As J5, Padilla will be overseeing the ongoing programs of the AFP and would be directly involved in the planning of future military undertakings.

Prior to his stint as assistant J7

and spokesman, Padilla served as the AFP Liaison Officer to the US Pacific Command in Honolulu, Hawaii (2011-2014).

Other major assignments occupied by Padilla were Secretary to the Joint Staff, AFP General Headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo; Assistant AC of AS for CMO, A7 at HQ PAF; Commandant of the Philippine Air Force Flying School at Fernando Air Base, Lipa City; Secretary Air Staff, HQ Philippine Air Force; Commander of the Tactical Operations Group II (TOG II) based in Davao City; Director, Philippine Air Force Public Information Office; Division Chief, International Affairs Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, J5.

As an aviator, Padilla has more than 2,800 flight hours to his credit. He has flown aircraft such as T-41D, SF260M, T-28, B-205A, UH-1H, CH-46, Bell 212 & 412, the Bell 206 Jet Ranger & Long Ranger and the Robinson R22 and R44. He has earned his ratings as a flight commander, test pilot (UH-1H/B205A) and as an instructor pilot (UH-1H/B205A).

Padilla is a fully qualified academic instructor, having completed his Academic Instructor Training at the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, USA. He also holds a Master's Degree in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management.

Mario J. Mallari

6/ September 2017



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Duterte eyes moving intel funds to anti-terror campaign

By MARVIN SY

President Duterte is looking to transfer intelligence funds of his office for the use of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in its campaign against terrorism in Mindanao.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said this was relayed to the leaders of Congress during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting last Tuesday.

Drilon noted there was no briefing paper prepared for this and that it was just mentioned by the President.

He recalled that the President wanted the funds to be used for purchasing arms for the AFP's ongoing campaign to address terrorist threats in Mindanao.

The Office of the President has around P2.5 billion in intelligence and confidential funds, which are being used by the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, Philippine Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces Agreement, National Coast Watch Council, Presidential Situation Room, Anti-Terrorism Council and Anti-Organized Crime, all of which are under its jurisdiction.

During the LEDAC meeting, Drilon pointed out that the planned realignment of intelligence funds cannot be done now because of the ruling of the Supreme Court on the Development Assistance Program (DAP) of the Aquino administration.

The administrators of the DAP argued then that savings could be realigned to programs or projects

that require additional funding.

Drilon noted, however, that the Supreme Court, in its ruling, stated that savings can only be determined at the end of the year.

"I suggested during the meeting that you cannot do it now because you cannot claim you have savings because according to the Supreme Court, the savings can only be determined in December," Drilon said.

To address this legal obstacle, Drilon urged Malacañang to craft a bill to amend the General Appropriations Act "and transfer items to the Armed Forces."

"Items which they cannot use anymore or they would, in their judgment, not need in the next six months, can be moved to areas where they want to move it," Drilon said.

– With Janvic Mateo, Ghio Ong

21 September 2017

The Manila Times

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HOUSE SPEAKER JOINS MARINES

SPEAKER Pantaleon Alvarez of Davao del Norte has joined the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) on Thursday as a reservist with a rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The House leader was a reservist of the Philippine Navy but opted to join the Marines and is now a member of the newly-created Philippine Marine Corps' Board of Advisers (BoA).

According to 1st Lt. Maria Rowena Dalmacio, acting public affairs chief of the Marines, the pinning of Alvarez's ranks took place on Thursday at the headquarters of the Philippine Marine Corps in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Alvarez became a reservist of the Philippine Navy in November 1999, Dalmacio said.

The ceremony was followed by the induction of the BoA members.

During his speech, Alvarez lauded the Philippine Marines, saying it has

been providing "important services" within the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"In fairness to the Marines, because their missions are somehow sensitive. When it comes to challenging missions, the government has been sending the Philippine Marines, just like in Marawi, for instance, the Philippine Marines are the ones being sent," he said.

Fighting between government forces and Maute Group terrorists, who attacked Marawi City, capital of Lanao del Sur, on May 23 goes on.

In a chance interview with reporters after the event, Alvarez suggested that the Marine Corps should be located in Mindanao, noting that he himself is a native of the island.

"I hope that our Armed Forces, [will also be based] there in Mindanao so their deployment will be faster. We can deploy [soldiers] to Mindanao

instantly and, of course, we can also deploy to Luzon," he said.

Alvarez, however, added that he is treating the Marines as special forces in the AFP organization and that the Marines are being tapped for harder missions in the countryside.

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara is also a member of the Philippine Marine Corps' BoA, along with former Marines chief Lt. Gen. Rustico Guerrero (retired) and former 7th Marine Brigade chief Brig. Gen. Benjamin Espiritu (retired).

The other members of the board are Clarita Carlos, executive director for the Center for Political Reform Inc. of the University of the Philippines, Vivencio Dizon, president and CEO of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, and Angelo Valencia, managing partner of SEDLEX Professional Partnership Inc.

DEMPSEY REYES

1 September 2017

BULGAR
BOSES NG MICA, HOTA NG BAYAN

Pahina. 4

BULGAR
NG SA DAMIYANG DINOY

SEPTYEMBRE 1, 2017

Editorial **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

Tama na ang 100 araw na giyera sa Marawi

MEDYO may katagalan na rin ang kaguluhan sa Marawi City.

Maraming buhay na ang nalagas sa hanay ng terorista, gobyerno at pati na rin sa mga sibilyan.

At lahat naman tayo ay hinihiling na matapos na ito at maibalik na rin ang katahimikan sa lugar.

Sa katunayan sa pagsapit ng ika-100 araw ng giyera sa Marawi ay nanawagan ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa publiko na patuloy silang suportahan at ipagdasal.

Kumbaga, patuloy na suportahan ang pamahalaan sa laban nito kontra terorista at ipagdasal din na matapos na ang problema sa Marawi.

Sa totoo lang kailangang-kailangan talaga ng gobyerno ng suporta mula sa publiko lalo na ngayong mukhang malapit nang makubkob at mabawing muli ng gobyerno ang Marawi mula sa mga terorista.

Hangad natin ang tagumpay ng gobyerno at ang muling pagbabalik ng kapayapaan sa Marawi at pati na rin sa buong Mindanao.

Oras na para wakasan ang napakahaba nang panahon ng kaguluhan at ibigay na sa ating mga kababayan ang tahimik, payapa at maayos na pamumuhay sa kanilang bayan.

01 September 2017

The Manila Times

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The Church is moving, will the military follow?

It is not clear what prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to say, in his recent National Heroes' Day speech, that in France a person accused of a crime is presumed guilty and must prove his innocence. It is absolutely embarrassing for a Filipino to have to listen to such poppycock coming from his own President, and unbearably so, to have to listen to an Embassy statement correct him with labored politesse. There is no acceptable excuse or explanation for it.



FIRST
THINGS
FIRST
**FRANCISCO
S. TATAD**

First, because the matter has no place in a National Heroes' Day speech or in any presidential speech

► **TatadA5**

whatsoever, second, because the law adverted to is no super state secret, it is completely accessible to anyone who wants it. DU30 is a lawyer surrounded by so many other lawyers from the same class in the same law college; they must have some basic sense of the high principles of law that animate many constitutions, even without their having read Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws*, the *Napoleonic Code*, or any of the legal classics which the young Wenceslao Vinzons read as a law student at the University of the Philippines, or the actual laws of other countries.

We thank the French Embassy in Manila for pointing out the President's error without making such a big fuss about it. "As in the Philippines, the presumption of innocence until proven guilty is at the core of the French judicial system, based on the principles enshrined in the French Declaration of Human and Civic Rights of August 26, 1789," the statement said. It was sufficient to state the fact. But we owe the world an apology for having a President who talks like this.

And how he loves to talk! It seems to be the fulfillment of his idea of governance and leadership. Nothing seems too inconsequential, irrelevant or low for this President. Thus, we heard him talking about his fascination with "revolutionary government" where he could have contributed some moments of silence. He gave the impression that whatever political power he now holds is not enough; he desperately wants more; and he is torn between two alternatives—"martial law" for the entire country, or a "revolutionary government."

Whose revolutionary govt?

Because of the Mautes' attack on Marawi on May 23, 2017, martial law is now in place in the whole of Mindanao until December 31, 2017. But some people close to DU30 are apparently convinced it should be extended nationwide for his own purposes—he only needs to invent the legal grounds for it. But DU30 interrupts his soliloquy to confess his preference for a "revolutionary government." "My advice to a President who wants to change, do not go for martial law. *Gawin lang isyu*—(they'll just make an issue of it.) Go for a revolutionary government, *para tapos lahat*—(so everything will be finished.)"

The thirst for power is obvious, but equally so is the lack of understanding of what revolutionary government actually entails. Normally, you oust an existing system or government to establish a revolutionary government. This is what Oliver Cromwell did in England, what Napoleon Bonaparte did in France, Simon Bolivar in Latin America, Lenin in Russia, Mao in China, Fidel Castro in Cuba, and so on and

so forth. This is also what the Armed Forces of the Philippines, supported by the US and the Church-led civilian population, did when they withdrew their allegiance and support from Ferdinand Marcos and installed Cory Aquino in his place, despite her having earlier lost to him in the snap presidential election.

Since DU30 now heads a constitutional government, the only way he could declare a revolutionary government is for him to oust himself and the Constitution under which he got elected in May 2016. Then he becomes a revolutionary president. This would formalize his current status as a *de facto* revolutionary president who acts outside the Constitution and the law whenever he likes it. But it would expose him to grave danger from other forces. For if he believes it is right for a sitting President to mount a revolution against himself, then nothing should prevent others, and the people as a whole, from waging the same revolution against the same president.

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Abella's 'clarification'

Therefore, the Protestant pastor cum presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella was right to wake DU30 from his reverie and assure the nation that he had "no intention of establishing a revolutionary government under his administration." Abella did not say it, but the truth is that a revolutionary government already exists without DU30 having to proclaim its formal existence. But not knowing when he is defending or further incriminating the President, or when he had said enough on the President's behalf, the spokesman went on to say that DU30's remarks on a revolutionary government were meant for some future President, who might need a new "approach in resolving the country's endemic and structural problems hindering genuine progress."

The intention was obviously to take DU30 out of the woods. But it only succeeded in embedding him all the more deeply inside the thicket. For if the spokesman was speaking the President's mind, as every faithful spokesman should, then it means DU30 does not discount the possibility, if not indeed the desirability, of a revolutionary takeover of his own government. But until now, DU30 has been the one trying to terrify us with the prospect of a nationwide martial law or revolutionary government. Rightfully, We, the People, should be the ones putting DU30 on notice that our patience is fast running out and that we could boot him out if he doesn't fulfill his duties within the limits of his constitutional mandate.

For over a year now, DU30 has made the extrajudicial killing of drug suspects the full equivalent of his idea of presiding over the

official business of the state and the transformation of Philippine society. Outside of these killings, he has not told the 105 million Filipinos what his government intends to do in the next 12 months, much less in the next five years, assuming he lasts that long, to assure the basic well being of the society. He has not said one word how the society is going to look like after the last drug suspects are killed and their killers are medalled and paraded as heroes before the international community.

Reign of terror

DU30 has shown a total lack of zeal in using the powers assigned to his office by the Constitution, and an excess of energy and determination to use those powers denied to him by the same Constitution. Thus, his pointless soliloquys, which his spokesman is later made to deny or clarify, are focused on the exercise of powers outside his lawful jurisdiction. By killing thousands of suspects in his murderous drug war, and threatening to kill anyone who crosses his path on any issue, DU30 has succeeded in terrorizing everybody else, who might otherwise raise their voices against murder, corruption, treason, incompetence and other crimes.

At the same time, he has created a myth about "presidential popularity" among those who do not have the courage to say that the "Emperor is naked," and prefer instead to endorse the manufacture and manipulation of public opinion by the most crooked propaganda fraudsters who would invent any fake news just to be on DU30's good side. All this has contributed to DU30's year-long reign of terror, which the website Asia Sentinel describes as "psychopathic." This has terrorized the entire society by terrorizing institutions, not only individuals.

The Church, which had played a brave and heroic role in opposing human rights abuses at the height of Marcos's martial law regime, has until the last few days failed to speak out as an institution. Some individual churchmen could not be prevented from denouncing the drug killings, but the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) as such failed to take one common stand for all its member-bishops against the killings. This was perhaps because DU30 seized the initiative by striking the first blow, cursing the Pope for causing a big traffic jam during his Philippine visit, and accusing unnamed bishops and priests, without proof, of leading private lives as colorful as his own, which is marked by many admitted moral imperfections.

The Church comes alive

This is now about to change. From the Archdiocese of Archbishop Socrates Villegas,

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CBCP president, in Lingayen-Dagupan, which began the ringing of cathedral bells from 8 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. every day until November 27, following the police killing of the 17-year-old Grade 12 student Kian Loyd de los Santos in Kalookan on August 16, several dioceses and archdioceses have since decided to ring their church bells at the same time, to call for an end to the drug killings. In my own parish, the pulpit has begun to speak out more vigorously than before.

The church bells first rang in protest against the drug killings, long before Kian's death, in the Diocese of Legazpi under Bishop Bong Baylon. The bell-ringing is expected to be heard in the other dioceses until it reaches the Archdiocese of Davao, where DU30 is a parishioner. There, Archbishop Romulo Valles is a good friend of the President, but he is also the incoming CBCP president whose term begins in December. He cannot afford to take a position distinct from all the other CBCP members.

When all the cathedral bells all over the country start ringing to call for an end to the killings, we would then see the Church's institutional response.

Will the military follow?

The other institution that needs to show its response is the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Constitution designates the AFP as "the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory." But not a word has been heard from the AFP high command since DU30 decided to set aside the Philippines' sovereign rights in the maritime features within its exclusive economic zone in the Spratlys, as confirmed by the July 12, 2017 ruling of the Permanent Arbitration Court at the Hague, and allowed China to continue its island-building activities in the disputed maritime features, without filing a single diplomatic protest.

A few members of the AFP, who have identified themselves as members of the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PA-DEM), have called for DU30's ouster for failing to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. But the AFP as such has not spoken. Analysts believe the failure of this institution to respond will continue for so long as there is no organized public pressure on it to respond. But these analysts believe it will finally begin to respond if and when there is a collective effort to compel it to do so. This would have a better chance of success if DU30 begins to have a greater fear of the people than the people have of DU30.

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ONLINE NEWS

01 September 2017

New Task Force Davao commander named

Claire Cornelio, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 31 2017 10:29 AM



DAVAO CITY- Colonel Nolasco Mempin is the new commander of Task Force Davao.

Mempin replaced Colonel Erwin Bernard Neri, who served as commander for a year.

On Tuesday's turnover ceremony, Neri thanked residents of the city for their unlimited support for the peace and order in the city.

"Ako ay lilisan na masaya dahil nalampasan ko ang pagsubok bilang task force Davao commander ako ay nagpapasalamat dahil sa tulong niyo," Neri said.

Mayor Sara Duterte then challenged Mempin to safeguard the city. She gave Neri a 10 out of 10 rating for leading TF Davao.

"A commander will always be a 10 and will graduate with flying colors kung walang sumabog na bomba, so you are the highest rated TF Davao commander," Mayor Duterte said,

The mayor also challenged the new TF Davao to counter terrorism.

"Isa lang ang idagdag ko sa 'wag matulog, 'wag huminga, ang 'wag mo akong ipahiya, be assured Col. Mempin na susuporta kami, the City Government of Davao will support you para ma-achieve mo ang target mo na zero terrorism incident in Davao City," Mayor Duterte added.

Mempin said he will ensure public safety and protection. He is also asking for the support and cooperation of the people of Davao.

Mempin was previously the chief of Governance and Strategy Management Office of 10th Infantry Division and a battalion commander of 78 Infantry Battalion in Cebu. He is the 13th Task Force Davao Commander.

<http://news.abs-cbn.com>

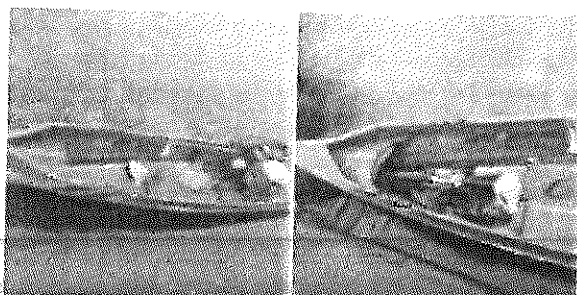
VIGILANCE | AFP guarding Lanao Lake vs Maute supporters

Posted by Alvin Santiago on August 31, 2017 at 10:50 AM

MINDANAO (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is tightly guarding the entire Lanao Lake against possible incursion of reinforcements by Maute sympathizers and to also block their escape.

According to Col Romeo Brawner, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Lanao, they have received reports that the Maute group is offering P50,000 to fishermen for the use of their boats to ferry Maute sympathizer into Marawi or to escape.

Recently, troops neutralized ten (10) Maute reinforcement trying to enter Marawi City through Lanao Lake.



The AFP is closely coordinating with Local Government Unit's, specially the Mayors of the different towns around the lake, to make sure that the terrorist will not be able to secure any water crafts to take them in or out and/or re-supply their comrades in the main battle area.

Col Brawner added that there are strong indications that the Maute group within the conflict zone is running out of bullets and food supplies, that is why they are scouring the area for boats they could use.

The AFP is also confident that Maute leader's, Omar and Abdullah Maute, and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon is still within the main battle area, that is why they are tightening their cordon around the remaining stronghold of the terrorist to prevent their escape. **AES / ALS**

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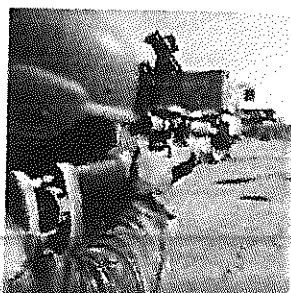
101 DAYS | AFP to make adjustment from lessons learned in Marawi

Posted by Alvin Santiago on August 31, 2017 at 10:21 AM

MINDANAO (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) needs to strengthen its training on Urban Warfare.

According to Col Romeo Brawner, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Lanao, this is some of the lessons they learned from their battle with the Daesh-inspired Maute Terror Group in Marawi for the past 100 days.

The AFP is amenable that most of our soldiers were trained in jungle warfare, to combat communist and secessionist rebels, while only our Light Reaction Battalion are specialized in urban warfare.



It can be recalled that after the Zamboanga siege in 2013, our Light Reaction Battalion was upgrade to a regiment in the event that fighting will once again shift to an urban setting. But with the lesson of Marawi, it is important that all our soldiers are trained on both jungle and urban warfare.

Col Brawner added that the AFP must also train more soldiers as snipers, because in Marawi most of the fighting was sniper versus sniper.

For the past 101 days, the death toll has almost reached 800, where 617 is from the enemy side, 133 from the government and 45 are civilians. **AES / ALS**

<http://dwdd.com.ph>