

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

03 September 2017

Sunday

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

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

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
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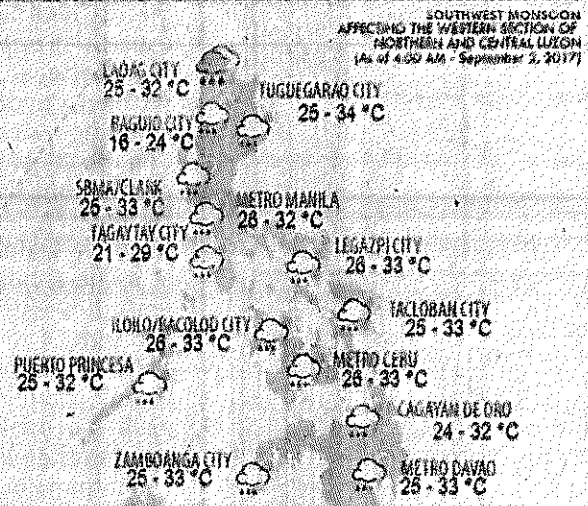
SUNRISE: 5:44 AM
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MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
5.28 PM
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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 03, 2017 | SUNDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 4 MON	SEP 5 TUE	SEP 6 WED	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 4 MON	SEP 5 TUE	SEP 6 WED
METRO MANILA	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 35 °C	25 °C 35 °C	26 °C 34 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LAOAG	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 °C 24 °C	16 °C 24 °C	17 °C 24 °C	TACLOBAN	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LEGAZPI	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C



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US PLANS MORE SEA PATROLS IN CONFLICT AREAS

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is planning to conduct more regular patrols in the South China Sea—as many as two to three a month—to assert freedom of navigation in disputed waters claimed by China, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The newspaper said the aim was to create a more consistent posture to counter China's maritime claims, rather than a more ad hoc approach favored during Barack Obama's administration.

US officials declined to say where or when the new patrols would be made, but said the plan developed by the US Pacific Command called for two or three so-called "freedom of navigation" operations a month over the next few months.

Future patrols also could include US military aircraft as well as US Navy warships, the *Journal* said.

There have been three "freedom of navigation" operations since President Donald Trump took office in January—the last one by the *USS John S. McCain*, a destroyer that collided with a cargo ship days later off Singapore, killing 10 sailors.

During the Obama administration, the US Navy conducted four such operations in the South China Sea, where China has asserted its claims by building artificial islands and establishing runways, ports and other facilities on them.

China claims nearly all of the sea, through which \$5 trillion in annual shipping trade passes and which is believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits.

Turn to A2

Its sweeping claims overlap with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei—all Asean members—as well as Taiwan.

Washington and Beijing have seen their relations grow increasingly fraught since a promising summit between Trump and China's Xi Jinping in April. **AFP**

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Syria rebels back opposition plan for a 'national army'

BEIRUT – More than a dozen Syrian rebel factions have thrown their weight behind a proposed plan to create a single "national army" to unify the fractured opposition movement.

The idea was proposed earlier this week by the opposition's interim government in exile and by the Syrian Islamic Council (SIC), a body of Syrian Muslim clerics established in 2014 in Turkey.

"We must end the fractured state we are now facing and unify ranks," said the SIC, calling on rebels "to form one revolutionary army."

The interim government said the unified structure would "bring the downfall of the criminal regime."

By Friday, more than a dozen factions had backed the idea, including the prominent Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham and Turkish-backed rebels.

"We announce our support for the initiative launched by the SIC calling for a united national army," read a joint statement by Ankara-backed groups including the Mutasem Brigades.

Ahrar al-Sham said it was "ready to take all necessary steps to see the initiative succeed."

Since Syria's uprising broke out in March 2011, its various rebel components have tried and failed several times to form a lasting, unified front against President Bashar al-Assad.

In addition to losing territory to Assad's army, rebels have also clashed with jihadists from the Islamic State group and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham.

That feeling of isolation may have pushed rebels to back this particular plan, said Charles Lister, an expert on Syria's rebel movement at the Middle East Institute.

"The only reason to say this might be different is because the opposition's situation is much more desperate than ever before," Lister told *AFP* on Friday.

"This is the only option they have left if they have any hope to be seen as legitimate."

Lister said idea was "very, very much a Turkish initiative" but had gained traction in recent weeks.

In particular, he added, rebels want to demonstrate to the international community that there were alternatives in Syria to Assad loyalists on one hand and jihadists on the other. **AFP**

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President Duterte awards the Gold Cross Medals to Staff Sgt. Dexter Baldisaca and Cpl. Renato Antecristo during the Eastern Mindanao Command 11th Founding Anniversary celebration at the Naval Station Felix Apolinario in Panacan, Davao City on Friday.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Ilonggo military official in 10 Most Outstanding Filipinos list

By **TARA YAP**

ILOILO CITY - A soldier from Sta Barbara, Iloilo was named by Metrobank Foundation, Inc. as one 2017's 10 Most Outstanding Filipinos.

Lt. Col. Elmer B. Suderio of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division (1

ID) is set to be awarded by Metrobank Foundation, Inc. on Sept. 7.

Suderio served in Basilan in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Suderio led a series of operations against Abu Sayyaf Group bandits when he was commander of the

3rd Scout Ranger Battalion.

The 2015-2017 operations significantly reduced the strength of the terrorist group.

Suderio also initiated alternative livelihood programs for former Moro National Liberation Front members.

He is also credited for transforming the 12th Scout Ranger Company from a problematic unit to a more disciplined one in 1998.

Suderio is currently the operations officer of the Joint Task Force in Marawi City.

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KID WARRIORS SEEN JOINING MAUTE RANKS

YOUNG recruits of the Maute group may be sent to reinforce enemy front lines in Marawi City, a military spokesman said Saturday—as troops continue to rid the besieged city of terrorists, at the same time that sources said Isnilon Hapilon, the anointed 'emir' of Islamic State-inspired groups, might have already fled to Basilan.

In a radio interview, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said desperate conditions of the Maute group might force them to finally use child fighters against government forces to prolong the infighting in Marawi City.

"Before, they were not in the front lines but since they're already in a desperate state, they may be forced to use these children," Padilla said in a radio dzBB interview.

Padilla said troops would still attempt to rescue the young Maute group recruits.

"We're doing our best to rescue the child fighters ... and save the hostages," he said.

In related developments:

- Government troops started scouring towns round Marawi for possible Maute sympathizers, a day after President Rodrigo Duterte warned of a possible terrorist spillover from Marawi City.

"We are trying to validate all these reports. As far as the center of Buldon, we have not been able to monitor any such recruitment, but there are isolated areas here," said Col. Jesus Sarsagat, 603rd Brigade commander.

Sarsagat said army intelligence units were closely monitoring parts of the town near the Cararao complex as it might serve as a route to Butig, hometown of the Maute family. **Turn to A2**

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Blocking operations along the border of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao were already established even before news of a possible spillover surfaced, he said.

• Senator Ralph Recto on Saturday urged the government to help wounded soldiers in Marawi City by giving them a much bigger financial assistance and reward.

"If the injuries sustained by the wounded are so severe that they would require lifetime care and assisted living, then it is time to review if existing policies are enough to provide those," Recto said.

Under existing rules, a soldier or a policeman permanently maimed during combat or operations, gets a one-time P250,000 financial aid. The senator wants this quadrupled to P1 million.

Recto called for the augmentation of the budget for the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program, which lists the aid to be extended to killed and wounded uniformed personnel, as it was based on an estimate of 681 personnel killed or wounded during the entire year.

He said: "The war in Marawi was not factored in. If guns need to be reloaded with ammo, the same is true for the funds of programs to help the wounded and the killed.

"The wounded are the other heroes of Marawi. They are casualties, too. They may not have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the peace, but their valor and courage are no less fierce."

Padilla said the soldiers would be forced to retaliate and defend themselves if Maute child fighters would take up arms and fire at troops.

The military had earlier said they had cornered the Maute group in a 500-square-meter area in Marawi City, with terrorists' leaders Abdullah and Omar Maute believed to be still in the area.

Government sources said another terrorist leader, Hapilon, remained alive but was no longer in Marawi after he had been seen in Basilan openly as the infighting reached more than a hundred days.

"There has been a rift going on, he's being baited [to authorities]," sources said, adding there had been demoralization among terrorists ranks.

The military, however, has yet to officially confirm

the information on Hapilon's whereabouts.

An operation against Hapilon in Marawi City led to the Maute group's siege last May 23, which prompted President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Earlier, Duterte said it was unlikely to lift martial law in Mindanao before the end of 2017 because of a possible spillover of violence brought about by the fighting in Marawi City to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Recto said the number of wounded servicemen in Marawi had exceeded the 1,000 mark by now.

The military does not provide a running tally of troops wounded since extremists overran the city on May 23.

But when officials of Armed Forces of the Philippines met with senators on the Marawi crisis prior to the special session of Congress last July 22 to tackle the extension of the state of martial law in Mindanao, the number of wounded government troops had reached 845 by then, Recto said.

"That was the reported figure as of July 17. At that time, the report was 823 AFP personnel wounded plus 22 from the police. That was the figure 47 days ago," Recto said.

Unlike killed in action, the total to date of which is mentioned in every report, military battlefield reports do not carry a running total of wounded-in-action.

By Aug. 31, the number of soldiers killed had climbed to 136, the latest three wounded in the retaking of a strategic bridge that leads to the city.

Thursday's push also wounded 54 troops, according to media reports that quoted military spokesmen.

Recto said he was not questioning what appears to be a policy to embargo information on total number of wounded.

"The people deserve the right to salute their heroes," Recto said.

He said stories of wounded personnel reporting to the front with injuries not yet completely healed depicted men who are heroes.

He said the budget of the AFP Medical Center, pegged at P1.613 billion for 2018, should be increased to accommodate the needs of wounded servicemen.

John Paolo Bencito and Joel Zurbano

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The Manila Times

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Recto wants P1M for wounded soldiers

SEN. Ralph Recto on Saturday sought to increase to P1 million from P250,000, the budget for each government trooper wounded in the ongoing battle to liberate Marawi City from Maute extremists.

The Senate President Pro Tempore also deplored that the number of wounded soldiers and policemen in the war in Marawi has already exceeded the 1,000 mark or "over two battalions."

Under existing rules, a soldier or a policeman permanently maimed during combat or operations, gets a one-time P250,000 financial aid. Recto wants this quadrupled to P1 million.

He called for the augmentation of the budget for the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CSBP), which lists the aid to be extended to killed and wounded uniformed personnel.

The senator said the 2017 budget for CSBP was based on an estimate of 681 personnel killed or wounded during the entire year.

"If the injuries sustained by the wounded are so severe that they would require lifetime care and assisted living, then it is time to review if existing policies are enough to provide those," Recto said.

"The war in Marawi was not factored in," he said, adding the existing aid package for wounded personnel should be studied.

"I think for grave injuries, like multiple amputations, loss of sight, we must increase it to P1 million. And we should ensure lifetime care and hospitalization for them," he said.

Under the CSBP, permanently disabled servicemen will get a financial assistance of P250,000 while those suffering minor and major injuries, P100,000.

Permanently disabled servicemen are entitled to four types of assistance: financial; shelter, which is a unit costing P450,000 within a military or police housing site; education, with annual stipends to two dependents; and medical, which covers hospitalization and maintenance medicine.

He said the budget of the AFP Medical Center, pegged at P1.613 billion for 2018, should be increased to accommodate the needs of wounded servicemen.

Recto said "the wounded are the other heroes of Marawi." It is also time to publicly honor them, he said.

"They are casualties too. They may not have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the peace, but their valor and courage are no less fierce," he said.

Casualties increasing

Recto noted that when officials of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) briefed senators on the Marawi crisis prior to the special session of Congress last July 22 to tackle the extension of the state

of martial law in Mindanao, the number of wounded government troops had reached 845 by then.

"That was the reported figure as of July 17. At that time, the report was 823 AFP personnel wounded plus 22 from the police. That was the figure 47 days ago," he said.

Unlike KIAs or killed in action, the total to date of which is mentioned in every report, military battlefield reports "do not carry a running total of WIAs or wounded-in-action," he said.

By August 31, the number of soldiers killed had climbed to 136, the latest three fatally wounded in the retaking of a strategic bridge that leads to the city.

"Thursday's push also wounded 54 troops, according to media reports that quoted military spokesmen," he said.

On July 22, 42 soldiers were wounded within 24 hours. "So, ngayon higit na 1,000 na [So, now it's over 1,000]," he added.

Recto said he is not questioning what appears to be a policy to embargo information on total number of wounded.

"The people deserve the right to salute their heroes," Recto said. He said stories of wounded personnel reporting to the front with injuries not yet completely healed depict men who are heroes.

"There are wounded soldiers who want to be rushed back to the front because they want to fight alongside with their comrade in arms," he said.

BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

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Recto wants P1M reward for wounded soldiers

By MARLON PURIFICACION & CAMILLE P. BALAGTAS

SENATE President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto wanted to raise the financial reward for wounded soldiers from P250,000 to P1 million.

Recto called for additional budget for the care and financial reward for the "more than one thousand soldiers wounded" in the battle to liberate Marawi City from terrorists.

"If the injuries sustained by the wounded are

so severe that they would require lifetime care and assisted living, then it is time to review if existing policies are enough to provide those," Recto said.

Under existing rules, a soldier or a policeman permanently maimed during combat or operations, gets a one-time P250,000 financial aid. Recto wants this quadrupled to P1 million.

He also called for the augmentation of the budget for the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program, (CSBP) which lists the aid to be extended to killed and

wounded uniformed personnel, as it was based on an estimate of 681 personnel killed or wounded during the entire year.

Recto said "the wounded are the other heroes of Marawi."

It is also time to publicly honor them, he added. "They are casualties too. They may not have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the peace, but their valor and courage are no less fierce."

Recto said the number of wounded servicemen in Marawi has exceeded the 1,000 mark by now. The

military does not provide a running tally of troops wounded since extremists overran the city May 23.

By August 31, the number of soldiers killed had climbed to 136, the latest three fatally wounded in the retaking of a strategic bridge that leads to the city.

Thursday's push also wounded 54 troops, according to media reports that quoted military spokesmen. "Isang araw lang 'yan na tala ng sugatan," Recto noted.

"May isang araw, noong July 22, na 42 ang wounded sa loob ng 24 oras. So

ngayon higit na 1,000 na," he added.

Recto said he is not questioning what appears to be a policy to embargo information on total number of wounded.

"Ang sa akin lang, alamin natin, bigyan natin ng parangal, at tulong para maka-recover sila sa mga sugat na natamo. At pagpugay narin. The people deserve the right to salute their heroes," Recto said.

He said stories of wounded personnel reporting to the front with injuries not yet completely

healed depict men who are heroes.

"May mga sugatan na hindi pa naghihilom ang sugat, rushed back to the front because they want to fight alongside with their comrade-in-arms. Iyang ganyang kabayanihan ang dapat malaman," he said.

Recto said the existing aid package for wounded personnel should be studied.

"I think for grave injuries, like multiple amputations, loss of sight, dapat dagdagan pa natin, gawing P1 million. At igarantisa ang habambuhay na alaga

at hospitalizasyon," he said.

Under the CSBP, permanently disabled servicemen will get a financial assistance of P250,000 while those suffering minor and major injuries, P100,000.

Permanently disabled servicemen are entitled to four types of assistance: financial; shelter, which is a P450,000 unit within a military or police housing site; education, with annual stipends to two dependents; and medical, which covers hospitalization and maintenance medicine.

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5 NPA rebels surrender in S. Kudarat

SULTAN KUDARAT – Five New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas surrendered to Army troopers in the municipality of Senator Ninoy Aquino in this province on Friday.

The surrenderees – Misuari, Ome, Adot, Siale and Eson, all surnamed Digan – belonged to the NPA's Guerrilla Front 73, which operates in the hinterlands of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato.

The group is reportedly known for harrasing farmers who refuse to pay "taxes" to the communist movement.

Local officials and tribal leaders reportedly facilitated the surrender of the guerrillas to the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion (IB) in a remote

barangay in Senator Ninoy Aquino town.

The rebels turned over to the Army three rifles and a grenade launcher, according to 33rd IB chief Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc.

"The five decided to surrender after realizing that they have not been getting anything good from the NPA and their lives are at risk everyday. They also missed their families," Cabunoc said.

In May, 11 rebels also surrendered to the 33rd IB in the same town.

Cabunoc said he would present the surrenderees to Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu next week.

– John Unson

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POLICE FILES

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5 NPA sumuko sa Sultan Kudarat

LIMANG miyembro ng New People's Army ang nagbaba ng armas at sumuko sa Philippine Army sa Sen. Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat.

Sinabi ni Lt. Col, Harold Cabunoc, Commanding Officer ng 33rd Infantry (Makabayan) Battalion, ang mga rebelde ay mula sa Platoon Myphone ng Guerilla Front 73 sa ilalim ni Ka Macmac.

Kabilang sa mga sumuko sina Misuari Digan, 18-anyos, Ome Digan, 48, Adot Digan 30, Siale Digan, 16, at Eson Digan, 25.

Sumuko rin ang isang child warrior na kinilala lamang sa pangalang Siale, 16, na ni-recruit ng rebeldeng grupo noong 2015.

Isinuko rin ng mga ito ang tatlong mga armas kabilang ang isang cal. 30 M1 Garand, Cal 30 M2 Carbine, at isang 40mm M79 Grenade Launcher.

Kwento ni Misuari Diga, 2014 nang i-recruit siya ni Ka Macmac sa barangay Tupi Bato. Nakumbinsi raw siyang sumapi sa grupo makaraang pangakuan na tutulungan silang mabawi ang kanilang lupa.

Ang mga surrenderees ay ipresenta sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Sultan Kudarat para makatanggap ng kaukulang benepisyonang laan para sa mga rebeldeng nagbabalik-loob sa pamahalaan.

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Army foils NPA attack plot in Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY – The Army here said yesterday it foiled a plot by the New People's Army (NPA) to launch attacks in North Cotabato with the recovery of 20 Armalite rifles and two hand grenades.

Col. Harold Argamosa, commander of the Army's 9th Infantry Battalion, said military intelligence agents uncovered a plot by the NPA's Guerilla Front 53 to attack government forces and civilian communities.

Argamosa said the communists who ambushed President Duterte's military escorts in Arakan, North Cotabato two months ago belonged to Guerilla Front 63 operating in the mountains around the country's highest peak – Mt. Apo.

Col. Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Infantry Brigade, lauded the 39th IB for the arrest of two NPA members, identified as Wawie Tagapla Boton, 19-year-old laborer, and George Landimagan Cuyo, 20, a farmer, both residents of Barangay Katipunan, Kidapawan City and the recovery of 20 high-powered rifles.

Argamosa said his unit received a tip from an informant about two men suspiciously hauling firearms that were to be buried in the village.

He immediately dispatched a team of soldiers accompanied by police officers to the site where they arrested the two and recovered the firearms.

North Cotabato is celebrating its foundation anniversary with a series of activities dubbed as Kalivingan Festival.

Soldiers have been placed on

heightened alert following the recovery of firearms.

Last month, the Army arrested a sub-commander of Guerilla Front 53 in nearby Makilala town who was keeping three M-16 Armalite rifles and bomb-making devices.

Few weeks later, the NPAs captured Police Officer 1 Bristol Catalan in what authorities believed was retaliation for the arrest of NPA leader.

Last Friday, the Army recovered a huge arms cache from suspected communists, following a "timely and accurate intelligence information" provided by civilian informants.

Col. Roberto Ancan, chief of the Army's 1002nd Infantry Brigade, said 18 rifles kept in circular drums were recovered while two other Armalite rifles were seized from two suspected rebels.

Lt. Col. Harold Argamosa, commander of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, said in a radio interview that the two men who claimed they were farmers were caught at past 12 midnight while in the act of burying 18 M-16 Armalite rifles and two hand grenades in Barangay Katipunan, Kidapawan City.

"They did not expect us and about 50 meters from where they were accosted was the guns' burial site," Argamosa said.

"Some have already been buried," he added.

Ancan said the soldiers arrived in the village at 12:30 a.m. and noticed two young men dragging suspicious sacks into a huge hole at Purok 3 in Katipunan. PNA

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Army seizes NPA firearms in Kidapawan

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguin-danao: The Army's 39th Infantry Battalion (39IB) recovered a cache of firearms from communist rebels in Barangay Katipunan, Kidapawan City, which it attributed to accurate intelligence information civilians provided.

Col. Roberto Ancan, 1002nd Infantry Brigade commander, said the first to be recovered were 18 M-16 Armalite rifles kept in circular drums while two other rifles were taken from two suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas who were arrested.

Ancan said the soldiers arrived in the village at about 12:30 a.m. on Friday and noticed two young men dragging suspicious looking sacks into a huge hole; the two ran when accosted but was caught after a brief chase.

Lt. Colonel Harold Argamosa, commander of the 39IB, identified the suspects as Wowie Tagapia Boton, 19, and George Landungan Cuyo, 20, both of Barangay Katipunan.

Argamosa said the suspects, who claimed they were farmers, were caught while hiding the 18 rifles and two hand grenades in a secluded area in the village.

He added the military listed the village as a "hot spot" because of the presence of NPA's Guerrilla Front 53 members.

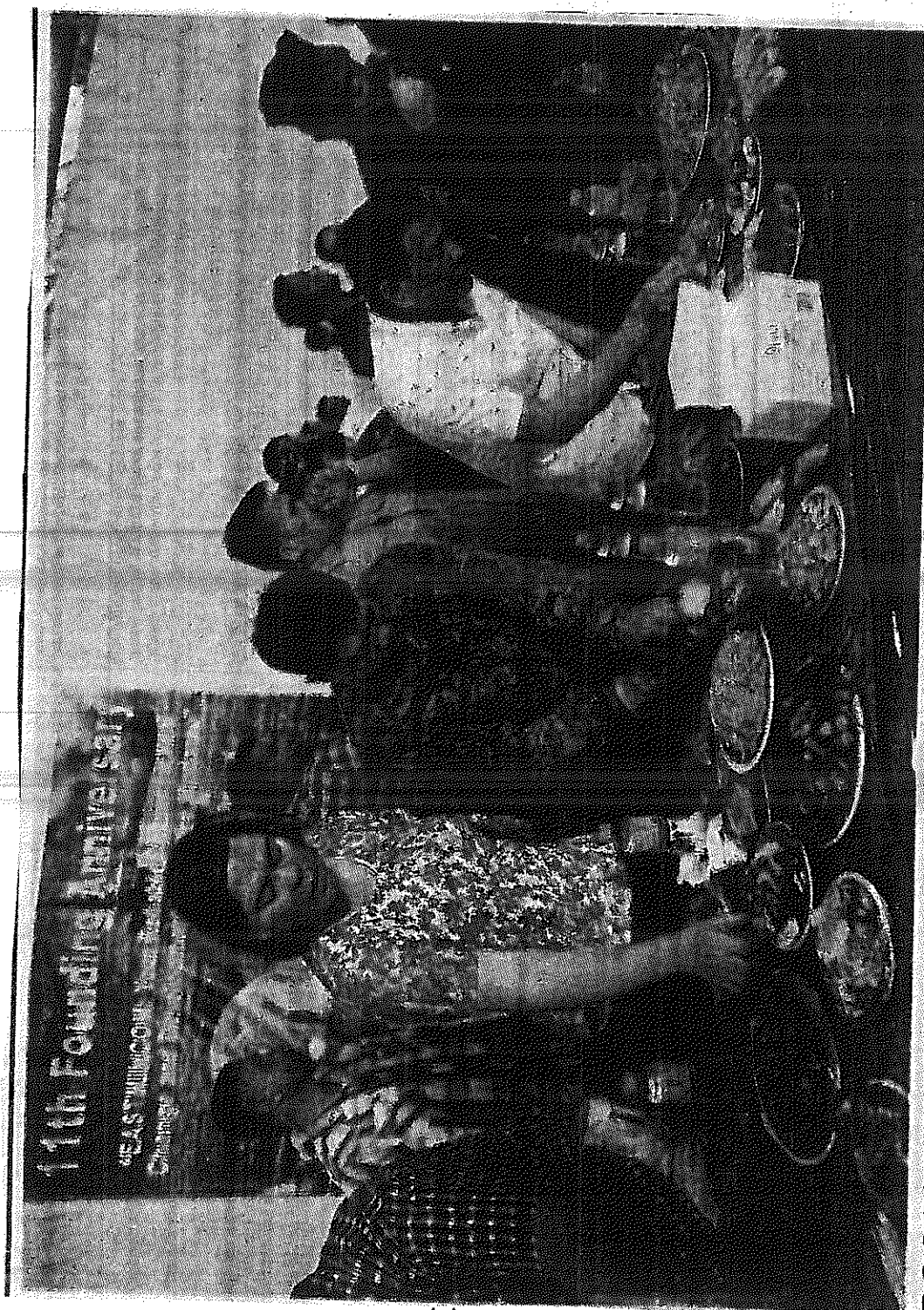
JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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BOODLE FIGHT President Rodrigo Duterte and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio join the boodle fight during the 11th founding anniversary celebration of the Eastern Mindanao Command at the Naval Station Felix Apolinario in Panaca, Davao. MALACANANG PHOTO

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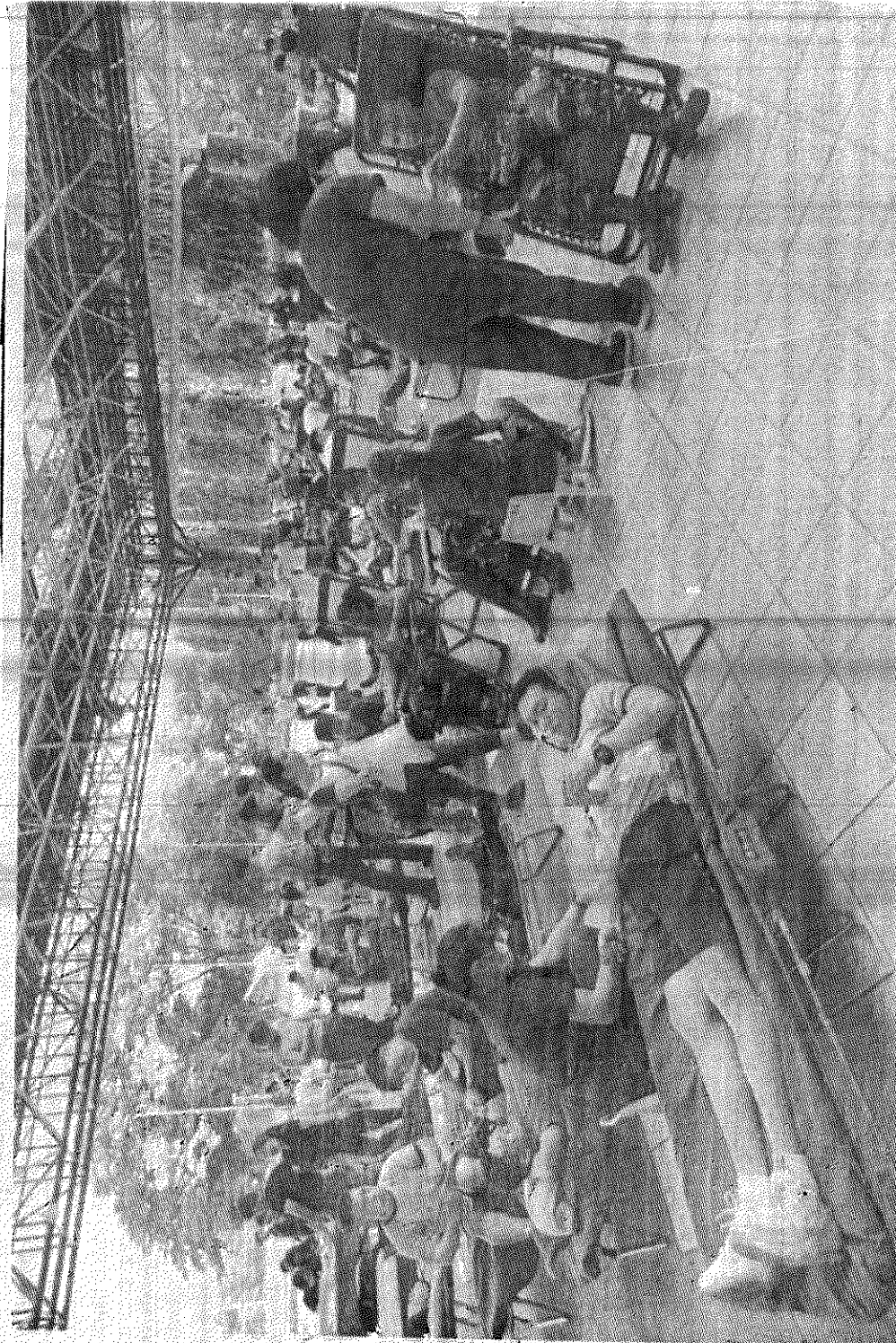
Members of the Philippine Navy and Marine Corps receive, inventory, and watch a demonstration on the wear and use of the T-000 M40 field protective masks delivered from the Joint US Military Assistance Group to the Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Taguig City. This delivery is one of many recent made from the US through the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement to enhance the counterterrorism capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Blood for peace Military and police personnel join “Dugo para sa Kapayapaan” — a blood-donating activity held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. PWA

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Malacañang assures Marawi: Mosques won't be bombed

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

MALACAÑANG on Saturday assured the public that state forces would comply with President Rodrigo Duterte's order not to bomb mosques in Marawi City amid the military's intensified operations against the Islamic State-linked Maute terrorists in the war-torn city.

In a statement, Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella said the government troops were one with the President in preserving Muslims places of worship in Marawi City.

"The Commander in Chief and our Armed Forces are taking pains to preserve places of worship as is the case with the Grand Mosque of the City of Marawi," Abella said.

"Although exemptions have been provided by international conventions that allow force to be employed, we have deliberately chosen to preserve it and so with other places of worship in the main battle area," he added.

Abella also said the military, upon the supervision of Armed Forces of the Philippines chief-of-staff Eduardo Año, was making sure to keep the public safe and secure amid the three-month long

armed conflict.

"Año, in compliance with the Commander-in-Chief's guidance, has made the safety of civilians and the rescue of hostages as primordial concerns of our forces," Abella said.

"Military operations continue to remain intense and focused, with the safety of hostages in mind, in the hope of bringing a quicker end to the rebellion and retake Marawi from the evil hands of the Maute terrorist rebels," he added.

Abella's statement came a few days after Duterte said the security forces could lay down measures that would counter the hostile acts perpetrated by the Maute terror group, except to bomb mosques.

"Mind you, when I said I leave it to the military and the police to solve the problem, that's it. I would no longer interfere, except

on my advice regarding the bombing of mosque. I said no. Don't do that because it's hard to answer," the President said.

On Friday, Duterte said he was unlikely to lift martial law in Mindanao before the end of 2017 because of a possible spillover of violence brought about by the fighting in Marawi City to the Muslim autonomous region.

In remarks before the military's Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City on Friday, the President said he wanted the conflict over soon, but would rely on the military's recommendation on when to lift martial rule, which he imposed on May 23 after the attack on Marawi by the Maute group.

"I was thinking that we could lift it (martial law) earlier but the way it looks, there's a possible spillover (of the Marawi conflict) in ARMM and in Buldon," Duterte said, referring to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Buldon, Maguindanao.

"Let us see. If it is to the interest of the country that I will lift it, I will lift it. But if not, we just have to continue with the martial law. And mind you, when I said that I leave it to the military and the police to solve the problem, 'yun na 'yun. Hindi na ako makialam

(I won't interfere)," he said during ceremonies marking the command's 11th anniversary.

"I enjoin the troops to continue being faithful to their sworn oath to protect and defend our sovereignty and our peoples, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao, amid the persisting threats of terrorism and insurgency," the President added.

Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial rule on May 23, the day the Maute group attacked Marawi City. In July, Congress granted Duterte's request for an extension until yearend.

Abella cited the latest development in the troops' goal to liberate Marawi from terrorists—the retaking of Bayabao bridge in Banggolo, "a major battle area," on Friday.

"Government forces have taken control of Bayabao bridge in Banggolo, which became a major battle area between government troops and members of the Maute Group," Abella said.

"The retaking of this strategic bridge is an important development as we continue to gain the upper hand in the main battle area and expand our vantage position with more troop deployments," he added.

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Equipment for 2 missile frigates under discussion

DISCUSSIONS are ongoing to determine what equipment and major systems are to be installed in two of the country's first-ever missile capable frigates, Philippine Navy (PN) Flag-Officer in Command Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado said.

"The frigate project is now on the planning stage. Discussions are ongoing to agree on equipment and major systems to be installed. After this, construction will start," Mercado said in a text message to the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Friday when asked for updates on the Armed Forces' modernization program.

Asked if this stage includes selection of weapons, propulsion and sensor systems for the two frigates, Mercado replied, "This stage involves everything about the ship."

The Navy chief, however, did not give specifics on when the discussions would conclude.

Mercado headed the technical working group that came up with the specifications of the country's

first-ever missile-capable frigates.

Meanwhile, Department of National Defense (DND) spokesperson Arsenio Andolong said the imple-

mentation of the country's frigate acquisition project has already begun and is proceeding as scheduled.

"Construction will commence in accordance with the timetable," he added.

In October 2016, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana formally inked the contract for the frigate acquisition program, together with officials of South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI).

The signing ceremony took place at the Navy headquarters

in Naval Station Andrada, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The project involves the construction and delivery of two missile-firing frigates to the Navy.

The notice of award was approved, issued and was duly conformed by HHI on September 13, 2016 with the amount of \$336.91 million or P15.74 billion.

The project is worth P16 billion with another P2 billion allocated for the acquisition of assorted weapon systems and munitions. **PNA**

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US donates 1,000 protective masks to PH Navy

THE United States Embassy in the Philippines said on Saturday it has given 1,000 protective masks and filter canisters to the Philippine Navy.

According to the embassy, the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) delivered 1,000 M40 field protective masks and C2 filter canisters to the Philippine Navy's Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown in Taguig City.

It was one of many recent deliveries from the US through the Mu-

tual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which aims to help the Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP)'s counterterrorism efforts.

"As the fighting continues in Mindanao, the [Philippine Navy] requested these gas masks in order to better prepare their sailors and marines to respond to chemical threats," The US Embassy said in a statement.

The transfer was part of a series of ongoing transfers from the US military to multiple branches of

AFP through both the MLSA and the security assistance program.

Through the MLSA, the AFP is able to receive select munitions and equipment from US military stocks.

"The United States is proud to work closely with the Republic of the Philippines, and will continue to support capacity-building counterterrorism efforts and the AFP's long-term modernization goals," the US Embassy said.

RJ CARBONELL

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Key area in Marawi under gov't control – Palace

Malacañang has lauded state security forces in their relentless efforts to safely return a key area in Marawi City under the government's control.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella yesterday confirmed that government forces have taken control of Bayabao Bridge in Banggolo, a major battle area between troops and the Maute terror group.

"The retaking of this strategic bridge is an important development as we continue to gain the upper hand in the main battle area and expand our vantage positions with more troop deployments," Abella said in a statement aired over Radyo Pilipinas.

While he stressed military operations continue to remain intense and focused, the Palace official assured that government forces want to ensure the safety of hostages "in the hope of bringing a quicker end to the rebellion and retake Marawi from the evil hands of the Maute terrorist rebels."

Abella, meanwhile, clarified news reports that President Rodrigo Duterte's directive not to bomb the Grand Mosque in Marawi City contradicted his earlier statement that he gave the military the option to attack the mosques to capture or kill the terrorist rebels.

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“The Commander-in-Chief and our Armed Forces are taking pains to preserve places of worship as is the case with the Grand Mosque of the City of Marawi. Although exemptions have been provided by international conventions that allow force to be employed, we have deliberately chosen to preserve it and so with other places of worship in the main battle area,” he said.

Abella added the Armed Forces of the Philippines has made the safety of the civilians and the rescue of hostages as primordial concerns of the government forces in compliance with the guidance of the Chief Executive.

Relatedly, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto yesterday called for additional budget for the care and financial reward for the “more than one thousand soldiers wounded” in the battle to liberate Marawi City from terrorists.

“If the injuries sustained by the wounded are so severe that they would require lifetime care and assisted living, then it is time to review if existing policies are enough to provide those,” he said.

Under existing rules, a soldier or a policeman permanently maimed during combat or operations, gets a one-time P250,000 financial aid. Recto wants this raised to P1 million.

He also called for the augmentation of the budget for the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program, (CSBP) which lists the aid to be extended to killed and wounded uniformed personnel, as it was based on an estimate of 681 personnel killed or wounded during the entire year.

“The war in Marawi was not factored in. If guns need to be reloaded with ammo, the same is true for the funds of programs to help the wounded and the killed,” Recto said.

“The wounded are the other heroes of Marawi. It is also time to publicly honor them,” he stressed.

“They may not have paid the

ultimate sacrifice to keep the peace, but their valor and courage are no less fierce.”

Recto said the number of wounded servicemen in Marawi has exceeded the 1,000 mark by now. The military does not provide a running tally of troops wounded since extremists overran the city May 23.

But when the AFP briefed senators on the Marawi crisis prior to the special session of Congress last July 22 to tackle the extension of the state of Martial Law in Mindanao, the number of wounded government troops had reached 845 by then, Recto said.

“That was the reported figure as of July 17. At that time, the report was 823 AFP personnel wounded plus 22 from the police. That was the figure 47 days ago,” Recto said.

Unlike KIAs or killed in action, the total to date of which is mentioned in every report, military battlefield reports do not carry a running total of WIAs or wounded-in-action.

By August 31, the number of soldiers killed had climbed to 136, the latest three fatally wounded in the retaking of a strategic bridge that leads to the city.

Thursday’s push also wounded 54 troops, according to media reports that quoted military spokesmen.

Recto said the existing aid package for wounded personnel should be studied. “I think for grave injuries like multiple amputations, loss of sight, we should increase it, make it P1 million. And guarantee the lifetime care and hospitalization,” he said.

Under the CSBP, permanently disabled servicemen will get a financial assistance of P250,000 while those suffering minor and major injuries, P100,000.

Permanently disabled servicemen are entitled to four types of assistance: financial; shelter, which is a P450,000 unit within a military or police housing site; education, with annual stipends to two dependents; and medical, which covers hospitalization and maintenance medicine.

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ADVANCING

PALACE HAILS RECAPTURE OF MARAWI BRIDGE

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

Malacañang hailed the capture by government soldiers of a bridge in Marawi as another sign of imminent victory against terrorists who had tried to establish an Islamic State (IS) province in the predominantly Muslim city.

Palace spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the capture by soldiers of the Bayabao bridge, a major battle site between government forces and members of the IS follower Maute group, was “an important development” in the campaign to finish off terrorists who were still holed up in Marawi.

Three soldiers were killed and 52 were wounded in the battle to take control of the bridge in Banggolo, a village in Marawi that had been occupied by the terrorists.

Abella said the military operations against the terrorists continued to be “intense and focused” with the safety of civilians a primary concern of soldiers, who were also hoping for a quicker end to the fighting.

Abella also said President Duterte and the military were trying to spare Marawi mosques from destruction during the war.

He said Mr. Duterte and the Armed Forces “are taking pains to preserve places of worship” as in the case of the Grand Mosque, which had been liberated from terrorists but remained standing.

He said although there were cases exempted from international conventions that barred targeting places of worship during war, “we have deliberately chosen to preserve” mosques in Marawi.

Abella issued the statement after Mr. Duterte, on Friday, said he preferred that the military not to target mosques used by terrorists to hide because it would anger residents of the city.

It was a sharp turnaround from Mr. Duterte’s earlier statement, made on Wednesday, that he was leaving it up to the military whether to bomb mosques being used as hiding places by terrorists.

The war on terror in Marawi has been raging for more than three months. INQ

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100 IS fighters sighted in Maguindanao

By **Jeffrey Maitem**
@jeffreymaitem

MARAWI CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) confirmed on Saturday President Duterte's claim that violence may spread outside of Marawi City which has been under siege for 102 days.

MILF spokesperson Von Al Haq told the Inquirer by phone that their units confirmed the presence of around 100 armed men, believed to be Islamic State (IS) militants, in the mountainous town of Buldon, Maguindanao.

Buldon, about 61 kilometers south of this lakeside city, is one of three towns at the border of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

Al Haq said they were uncertain whether the armed men

were planning to reinforce Maute gunmen here or "heading to Butig town because it's just near Buldon or in Maguindanao."

The Lanao del Sur town of Butig, only 35 kilometers on the opposite side Lake Lanao, is the burial place of MILF founder Hashim Salamat and birthplace of the Maute group.

The military claimed Cayamora Maute was once an MILF fighter who was expelled for grave misconduct and this led to the formation of the Maute group that is now led by his sons, Abdullah and Omar.

The MILF offered to help the government fight the Maute group after it was criticized for spawning the jihadist group.

But Al Haq said the MILF could not just confront the gunmen in Buldon because their

units were already engaged in fighting IS-linked militants in other Maguindanao towns since Aug. 10.

"We cannot just mobilize our forces to hunt down these militants because we also have an ongoing campaign in other parts of Maguindanao. We need resources and bullets," Al Haq said.

The MILF's revelation reinforced the military's claim that militants from other areas were trying to enter the city to reinforce their beleaguered comrades.

The military had earlier said the terrorists in Marawi were already confined to an area of a few hundred square meters, and the fighting was expected to end before December.

The progress of the military operations spurred President

ment of our ground forces only showed the successful coordination made by our troops and the local government units," Galvez said.

"The plan of the terrorists was earlier reported to us. That is why it was easier for patrolling special forces riverine units and maritime policemen to detect and neutralize the movement," he said.

Since the fighting started on May 23, the government already lost 136 soldiers and policemen.

Forty-five civilians were also killed in the battle that saw the displacement of nearly half a million people from the city and nearby areas.

The military said the militants were still holding some 70 hostages, including Catholic priest Teresito Suganob. INQ

Duterte to say that he had been thinking of lifting martial law in Mindanao earlier than its December expiration.

"I was thinking that we could lift it earlier. But it looks like it may spill over to [the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao], in Buldon," Duterte said during the anniversary of the Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City on Friday.

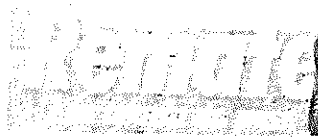
Last Monday, the military killed 10 gunmen who were purportedly trying to enter the main battle area through Lake Lanao.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command, said the 10 suspected IS militants were on two pump boats and were intercepted by elements of Joint Task Group Lawa.

"The recent accomplish-

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Pahina. 2

Mundo ng Maute lumiit sa pagkakabawi sa Bayabao Bridge

PARA sa Malakanyang, mahalagang 'development' ang pagkakabawi ng government forces sa itinuturing na strategic bridge na Bayabao Bridge na nasa Banggolo sa Marawi City.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella, na patunay lamang ito ng paglit ng lugar na ginagalawan ng Maute group at nalalapit na pagwawakas ng gulo sa Marawi.

"We continue to gain the upper hand in the main battle area and expand our vantage positions with more troop deployments," ayon kay Usec. Abella.

Bingyang-diin ni Usec. Abella ang patuloy na mas pinaigting na military operations ng tropa ng pamahalaan habang sinisiguro naman ang kaligtasan ng mga bahag ng Maute.

Umaasa aniya ang lahat na hindi na magtatagal ay mababang tuluyan ang Maala sa mala-demonyong ng mga teroristang

Maute.

Sa ulat, sinabi ni Western Mindanao Command Commander Lt. Gen. Carito Galvez kahapon ng umaga lamang nabawi ng mga tauhan ng Philippine Marines ang Bayabao Bridge mula sa kamay ng mga terorista.

Ang Bayabao bridge ang isa sa mga naging encounter site sa unang dalawang linggo na giyera sa pagitan ng teroristang Maute at militar.

Sinabi ni Galvez, bagama't nabawi na ng militar ang Bayabao Bridge, tatlong sundalo naman ang nagbuwis ng buhay at 52 ang nasugatan.

Pagbibigay-diin ni Galvez na ang pagkakabawi ng militar sa Bayabao Bridge, indikasyon ito na malapit nang matapos ang giyera sa Marawi.

Nabatid na kamakailan lang, nabawi na rin ng militar ang Baloi Bridge sa Mapandi na una nang naging vantage point ng mga teroristang Maute.

KRIS JOSE

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Gang busted for ₱2-M AFPSLAI loan caper; 8 fall

By JERRY J. ALCAYDE

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Eight suspected members of a syndicate are now jailed on charges of alleged estafa for using the records of a retired police official to fraudulently apply for a P2-million loan from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans Inc. (AFPSLAI) local office, here.

Superintendent Jonathan P. Paguio, city chief of police, identified the suspects as Seferino V. Rodolfo, 62, single, a resident of Barangay Aguado, Trece Martirez City, Cavite; Meriam D. Ungos, 49, widow, of Barangay San Nicolas, Pangasinan; Maribel M. Sionilo, 49, married, of Barangay Comembo, Makati; and

Jonathan P. Panceras, 41, single, also of Comembo, Makati; Alvin Abdul Kalam Mahamud, 43, of Upper Bernardo, Quezon City; Jesus C. Canero, 37, of Sta. Monica Village, San Fernando

City; TSgt. Edwin P. Madrigal (retired), 49, of Barangay Lourdes, Tarlac City and Marivic E. Jose, 35, of Barangay Cogeo, Antipolo City.

Investigation disclosed that suspect Rodolfo applied for a loan at AFPSLAI Office in Calapan City amounting to P2 million under the name of a certain retired police Superintendent Yolando O. Conaco, of Balua, Cagayan de Oro City.

But upon verification at the Philippine National Police (PNP) Headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City by AFPSLAI-Lucena Branch Manager Carolyn P. de Villa, whose office processed the loan, it was found out that the real Supt. Conaco has not applied for any loan in the said office.

On August 30, De Villa and AFPSLAI Calapan City sought police assistance, subsequently setting up an entrapment operation on the date of the release of the check for P2 million.

When the suspect, posing as Supt. Conaco, received the checks, together

with the group of Meriam Ungos and boarded a Hyundai Accent car with conduction sticker

MR 2899, police immediately arrested them.

Ungos denied the accusa-

tion against them saying that he merely helped the group of Rodolfo in releasing the checks.

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Higher financial aid sought for troops hurt in combat

By MARVIN SY

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto yesterday called for the grant of P1 million in assistance to soldiers and policemen who suffered serious injuries in the battle for Marawi City.

From the current P250,000 one-time financial aid given to seriously wounded soldiers and policemen under the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CSBP), Recto said this should be quadrupled to P1 million in recognition of the sacrifice they made to secure the country.

Considering the huge expenses they and their families would incur to provide care for them, Recto said a quarter of a million would not be enough.

"If the injuries sustained by the wounded are so severe that they would require lifetime care and assisted living, then it is time to review if existing policies are enough to provide those,"

Recto said.

Under the CSBP, aid is extended to killed and wounded uniformed personnel, the amounts of which vary depending on the severity of their injuries.

Permanently disabled servicemen
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are entitled to a financial assistance of P250,000 while those suffering minor and major injuries would receive P100,000.

Apart from this, permanently disabled servicemen are entitled to four types of assistance: financial; shelter, which is a P450,000 unit within a military or police housing site; education, with annual stipends for two dependents; and medical, which covers hospitalization and maintenance medicine.

Recto said the current budget for the CSBP was based on an estimate of 681 uniformed personnel killed or wounded for the entire year.

With the conflict that erupted in Marawi City, Recto said that estimate was clearly too low.

He said the number of wounded servicemen in Marawi has most likely exceeded the 1,000 mark.

When security officials briefed the senators on the Marawi crisis a few months back, Recto recalled the number of wounded government troops at the time was already

at 845.

"That was the reported figure as of July 17. At that time, the report was 823 AFP personnel wounded plus 22 from the police. That was the figure 47 days ago," Recto said.

Recto said he is not questioning what appears to be a policy to embargo information on total number of wounded.

"What I am saying is that we should find out and give them recognition and assistance so that they would recover from the injuries they sustained. The people deserve the right to salute their heroes," Recto said.

In more than three months of fighting, more than 700 have been killed on both sides.

Officials said 620 terrorists were killed and 136 soldiers and policemen lost their lives, including the three soldiers in last Thursday's fighting.

hailed the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for retaking control of Bayabao Bridge in Marawi City.

"The retaking of this strategic bridge is an important development as we continue to gain the upper hand in the main battle area and expand our vantage positions with more troop deployments," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said yesterday.

Abella said government troops are doing their best to end the conflict and rescue the hostages, more than three months since the firefight broke out.

"Military operations continue to remain intense and focused, with the safety of hostages in mind, in the hope of bringing a quicker end to the rebellion and retake Marawi from the evil hands of the Maute terrorist rebels," he said.

Malacañang also reiterated President Duterte's directive for the military not to bomb mosques in Marawi.

Abella clarified news reports that the President's advice not to bomb mosques in Marawi City where Maute rebels are holed up had con-

The number of civilian fatalities, all believed to have been executed by the terrorists, remains at 45.

Strategic gain

Malacañang, for its part,

tradicted his earlier statements giving the military the option to attack the mosques to capture or kill the terrorists.

"The commander-in-chief and our Armed Forces are taking pains to preserve places of worship as is the case with the Grand Mosque of the City of Marawi," Abella said.

Although exemptions have been provided by international conventions that allow force to be employed, Abella said the government has deliberately chosen to preserve mosques and other places of worship in the main battle area.

Abella added AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año, in compliance with Duterte's directive, has made the safety of civilians and the rescue of hostages the primary concern of government forces.

Green light

Duterte gave the AFP the green light to decide on how to finally end the fighting in Marawi City.

With many soldiers and civilians already sacrificed in the conflict, Duterte said he had to heed the advice to allow the military to conduct their operations freely, even at the

risk of sacrificing some more lives in the name of peace.

Duterte said his decision allowing the military to attack is a heavy responsibility he has to bear.

"What will give us, in terms of goodwill... You would have wounded the feelings of the entire Muslim world. So, I have to balance things. Either way someone would get killed. I get hurt. I grieve every night," he said.

The President said he is conscious of the feedback from the public asking why the military operation in Marawi has taken so long, leaving more than 700 people dead and thousands of people homeless.

"I have to get conscious of the cultural implications and the ideological point," he said.

Duterte said military operations have entered the "final stage" and he sees an end to the fighting.

Duterte said he wants to immediately start the rehabilitation of Marawi City to allow the thousands of displaced families to return to their communities.

Meanwhile, China said it is ready to support the Philippines in the rehabilitation of

Marawi City once the conflict comes to a close.

In a news briefing in Beijing on Thursday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said China is committed to supporting the counter-terrorism initiatives of the Philippines, including in Marawi City.

"We have said many times that we support the counter-terrorism efforts of the Philippine government and have offered a batch of emergency aid to its counter-terrorism fight in Marawi," she said.

"China will continue with its support and assistance, including post-war settlement and reconstruction, as needed by the Philippine side."

The Chinese official was asked to respond to President Duterte's earlier statement that the three-month infighting in the Islamic city is coming to a close.

"China believes that the Philippine government is capable of ending its fight against terrorism in Marawi as soon as possible so that peaceful and tranquil life could be returned to the people in Marawi and Mindanao," Hua said. - **With Edith Regalado, Janvic Mateo**

September 2017

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MILF confirms IS militants seen in Lanao Sur border

BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has confirmed the sighting of some 100 militants suspected to be Islamic State (IS) members at the border of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao particularly in Buldon municipality near Mount Cararao.

MILF spokesman Von Al Haq on Friday said their forces stationed in Buldon are on heightened alert along with the Philippine Army's 37th Infantry Battalion following the sighting of the suspected militants.

However, Al Haq, added he was not sure if the armed men were Maute members or are there to reinforce the terrorist group still fighting in Marawi City.

He said it is "positive" when asked by reporters about President Rodrigo Duterte's claim in a televised speech in Davao City about the IS militants sighted in Buldon.

Duterte announced during the anniversary of the Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City, that armed men were sighted in the Lanao Sur-Maguindanao borders and they could be IS militants.

The Army is verifying the sightings and sent troops near Butig town, the

hometown of the Maute brothers who led the Marawi City siege.

In his speech, Duterte said he was planning to lift martial law in Mindanao but the recent situation in Buldon made him think twice.

However, there have been no reported clashes between government forces and the suspected IS militants or between the MILF and the Maute group in Buldon as of Saturday.

Meanwhile, the military lauded the MILF for its cooperation in the on-going operations against the BIFF.

"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," said Major General Arnel de la Vega, commander of the 6th Infantry Division.

BIAF or Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, is the MILF's military wing.

Dela Vega's statement came after the MILF stayed away from fighting between the BIFF and security forces on Wednesday that killed one terrorist and wounded an Army soldier at the village of Tukanalipao in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Mamasapano is a known MILF and BIFF stronghold whose forces had killed 44 Special Action Force members during a clandestine operation that targeted Malaysian bomber Zulkifli Abdhir alias Marwan.

WITH AL JACINTO

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Pahina. 4

Hinihinalang back-up ng teroristang Maute-ISIS

100 armed men, naispatan sa Lanao del Sur

Pinaniniwalaang mga miyembro ng teroristang Maute-ISIS group ang mahigit 100 armadong kalalakihan ang namataan sa Mount Cararao na nasa boundary ng Buldon, Maguindanao at Lanao del Sur.

Kinumpirma ni Moro Islamic Liberation Front o MILF spokesperson Von Al Haq na ito ay base sa mga report na natanggap niya mula sa mga ground commander sa lugar.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Al Haq na hindi nila matiyak kung naghandanda ang naturang armadong grupo para sa gagawing pagatake sa Buldon dahil mas malaki aniya ang posibilidad na punta ng mga Butig, Lanao del Sur ang mga ito.

Ayon kay Al Haq, hindi naman nila maaaring ipakalat ang kanilang mga tauhan para tugisin ang mga ito dahil mayroon din si-

lang isinasagawang kampanya laban sa mga terorista sa iba pang bahagi ng Maguindanao.

Para aniya magawa ito, mangangailangan sila ng resources at karagdang mga bala.

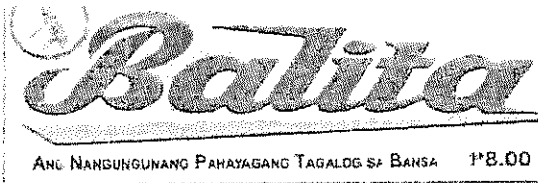
Una ng binanggit ni Pangulong Duterte sa kaniyang talumpati sa Davao City na nangangamba siya sa posibleng spillover ng krisis sa Marawi dahil sa mga namataang armadong kalalakihan

sa bayan ng Buldon na malapit lang sa Lanao del Sur.

Nabanggit din ni Pangulong Duterte na pinag-iisipan na niyang alisin ang Martial Law sa Mindanao bago pa ang December 31, pero nagbago ang isip niya dahil sa sitwasyon sa naturang lugar.

Paliwanag ni Duterte, tatantyahin pa muna niya ang kalagayan at kung kailangang ipagpatuloy ang Martial Law ay gagawin niya ito. (Rhoderick Beñez)

03 September 2017



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18 naulila sa Marawi crisis tinanggap sa DPWH

Tinanggap ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang mga kuwalipikadong kaanak ng mga sundalo at mga pulis na napatay o nasugatan sa operasyon sa Marawi City laban sa extremist na Maute Group

Sinabi ni DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, vice chairman ng Task Force Bangon Marawi, na ang 18 kuwalipikadong kaanak ng mga namatay ay nagtatrabaho ngayon sa mga tanggapan ng kagawaran malapit sa kanilang tinitirhang lugar

Ang mga dependent ay tinanggap bilang administrative aide at laborer sa DPWH Regional at District Engineering Offices

"We deeply sympathize with the families of our brave soldiers and policemen who sacrificed their lives for the safety of the civilians. That is why we want to be able to extend as much help as we can to

their bereaved dependents," ani Villar.

Bukod sa pagtulong sa mga miyembro ng pamilya ng mga napatay na sundalo, ang DPWH ay aktibo ring kasama sa pagpapabuti ng mga kondisyon ng internally-displaced persons (IDPs) na nakatira sa iba't ibang evacuation center.

Sa ngayon, itinayo ng DPWH ang 49 na latrines/ toilets sa pitong DSWD-managed evacuation center sa Iligan City at Baloi, Lanao del Norte. Kasabay ang mga ground improvement sa mga evacuation center sa Pantar, Sta. Elena, at Iligan City.

Pagkatapos ng bakbakan, nagbigay din ang DPWH ng relief goods at tulong na pinansiyal sa mga IDP na mula sa boluntaryong kontribusyon ng mga opisyal at empleyado ng DPWH.

Mina Navarro

03 September 2017



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Marawi troopers' kin to get DPWH jobs

Qualified dependents of soldiers and policemen who were either killed or wounded in action during the Marawi siege were hired by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar said 18 qualified dependents of casualties now work in the Department's offices near from where they live.

Villar, who also serves as the Vice Chair of Task Force Bangon Marawi, said the dependents were employed mostly as Administrative Aides and Laborers in DPWH Regional and District

Engineering Offices.

"We deeply sympathize with the families of our brave soldiers and policemen who sacrificed their lives for the safety of the civilians. That is why we want to be able to extend as much help as we can to their bereaved dependents," said Villar.

Aside from assisting family members of killed troops, DPWH is also involved in improving the living conditions of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) who still seeking refuge in various evacuation centers. **(Bethena Kae Unite)**

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POLICE FILES

Page. 2

Pag-develop sa Pag-asa Island sa West Ph Sea, sisimulan na

NAKATAKDA nang simulan ang konstruksiyon para sa ilang mga itatayong facilities sa Pag-asa Island. Ito'y matapos makuha ng Department of National Defense (DND) ang kontrata sa pagpapatayo ng ramp at tarmac sa nasabing isla na bahagi ng terrotoryo ng Pilipinas sa West Philippine sea.

Ayon kay DND Secretary Deffin Lorenzana, kanila nang ipinaaubaya sa contractor kung kailan sisimulan ang konstruksiyon.

Sinabi ni Lorenzana na dapat sana ay bago pa ang buwan ng Hulyo nasimulan ang konstruksiyon noong hindi pa maalon ang karagatan.

Ngayon aniya ay medyo mahihirapan na silang magdala ng mga construction materials doon dahil sa masama na ang kondisyon ng karagatan.

Nauna rito, inanunsyo ng pamahalaan ang plano na i-develop ang isla na kasalukuyan nang may military detachment at isang maliit na Komunidad.

Una na ring sinabi ni Lorenzana na bukod sa pag-sasaayos ng paliparan, magtatayo rin ng pier at mga pang-komersyong istraktura tulad ng ice plant sa naturang isla para sa benepisyo ng mga residente roon at mga mangingisdang dumadaong sa lugar.

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Pahina. 2

MGA BATA, ITATAPAT NG MAUTE VS. AFP

DESPERADO na umano ang natitirang miyembro ng Maute-ISIS sa Marawi City kaya malaki ang posibilidad na ipantapat na nila sa giyera laban sa mga sundalo ang mga batang miyembro.

Ayon kay Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, naiipit na sa sulok ng Marawi City ang mga naiwang miyembro ng Maute at tumitindi ang pagnanais nitong makabawi sa tropa ng pamahalaan at makatakas.

"Noong araw ay hindi sila napo-frontline pero ngayon dahil sa desperadong kondisyon nila, maaaring ilabas nila ang mga batang ito," ani Padilla.

Gayunman, sinabi ng heneral na patuloy pa ring sinisikap ng mga awtoridad na mailigtas ang mga batang nahikayat o napuwersang sumanib sa Maute-ISIS.

"Pero kami po ay susubakan pa rin namin silang i-rescue at makaha, pero yan po ang ating ginagawa, sinisikap nating ma-rescue ang mga hostage at maisalba itong mga batang ito," dagdag pa ng opisyal.

Bagama't, mabigat para sa kanilang banay, sinabi ni Padilla na wala silang pagpipihan kundi rumesbak at protektahan ang sarili sakaling atakihin sila ng mga batang miyembro ng Maute-ISIS.

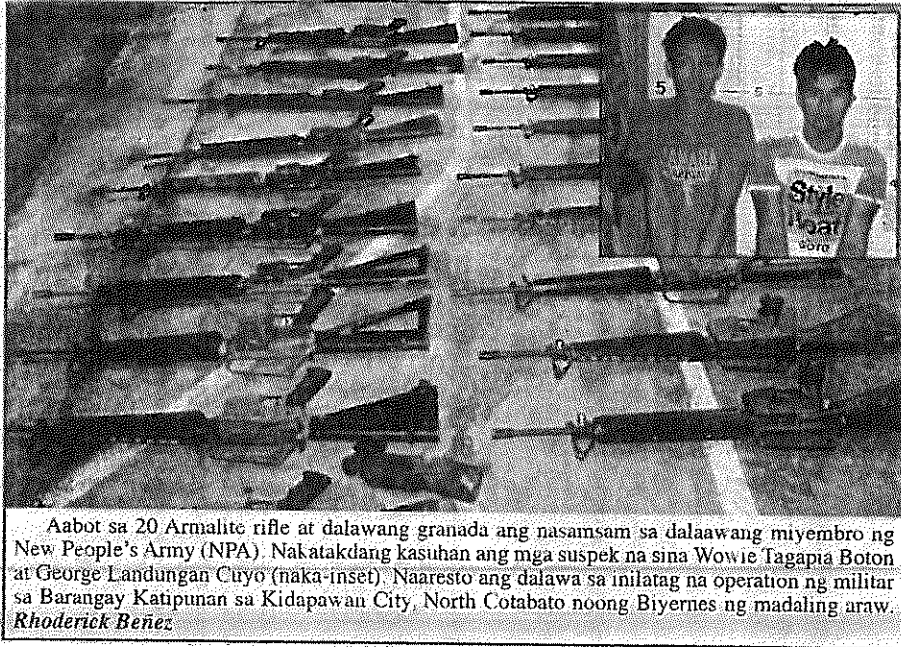
"Napakasakit pakinggan, medyo marami-rami ang kanilang hinikayat na mga bata na pumasok at kanilang nabrainwashed at naging parte ng kanilang grupo. Naka-kaawang isipin na itong mga batang ito sa muna ang edad ay naging parte sa ganitong karumal-dumal na krimen," ani Padilla. (Vyne Reyes)

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NGAYON

Pahina. 7



Aabot sa 20 Armalite rifle at dalawang granada ang nasamsam sa dalaawang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA). Nakatakdang kasuhan ang mga suspek na sina Wowie Tagapia Boton at George Landungan Cuyo (naka-inset). Naaresto ang dalawa sa inilatag na operation ng militar sa Barangay Katipunan sa Kidapawan City, North Cotabato noong Biyernes ng madaling araw. *Rhoderick Beñez*

03 September 2017



Pahina. 3

Editorial EDITORIAL Editorial

Maagang pamasko para sa mga taga-Marawi

NAG-UMPISA na ang 'ber months' at marami na sa ating mga kababayan ang excited na sa pagdating ng Pasko.

Kaya napakagandang balita rin ang pahayag ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na hindi na raw aabutin pa ng Pasko ang giyera sa Marawi City, ayos!

At ang mga residente ng Marawi na nagsilikas dahil sa sigalot ay makababalik na rin daw sa lungsod dahil batay daw sa pagtataya ng mga ground commander ay malapit nang matapos ang gulo.

Ayon pa sa kalihim, aabutin na lang daw ng tatlong linggo hanggang isang buwan ang labanan kung saan 250 by 250 meters na lang ang okupado ng Maute Group.

Bagama't, makababalik na ang mga sibilyan sa Marawi bago mag-Disyembre ay posible naman daw na sa mga temporary shelter muna magdiwang ng Pasko ang mga ito.

Hindi man agad-agad maibalik sa normal ang sitwasyon sa Marawi City, nakatutuwa pa ring malaman na palapit na tayo nang palapit sa kapayapaang ating hinahangad para sa lungsod.

Sa ganang atin, bagama't, may posibilidad na sa mga temporary shelter muna magdiwang ng Pasko ang ating ilang kababayan, mukhang magandang tingnan na rin nating maagang pamasko ang pagkakabawi ng Marawi City mula sa mga terorista, hindi ba?

Wala pa rin kasing tatalo sa pagdiriwang ng Pasko sa sarili nating bayan at sa lugar na ating kinalakihan.

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EDITORIAL

Jobs await NPA rebs

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has offered jobs and houses to New People's Army (NPA) rebels who will lay down their arms, raising hope of finally ending the country's communist insurgency problem.

The hard-hitting Duterte made the offer in a well-applauded speech during last Wednesday's 23rd anniversary celebration of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Taguig.

If the NPA rebels really want to stop fighting, Duterte, the country's first Chief Executive from Mindanao, said that "all you have to do is drop your weapon, give it to your leader and come down."

"At I'll give you a job... And I'll give you a space, instead of giving to the soldiers muna. Sabihin ko lang sa sundalo na maghintay-hintay lang kayo. Total may pera naman every year," said President Duterte.

At the same time, the long-time mayor of Davao City said he did not bring up the issue of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) funds ending up in the hands of the NPA.

The issue came out following the Commission on Appointments' rejection of former DSWD Secretary Judy Taguiwalo's appointment.

"You know, I did not raise that issue because para sa akin, it's too fundamental. Sabi ko sa mga military, kung pera lang, pati pagkain, pumunta sa NPA na gutom, at 'yung ayaw mag-NPA na hindi miyembro nila gutom, para sa akin, pareho lang 'yan," he added.

For the sake of the suffering Filipino people, let's welcome the offer of President Duterte to the NPA, which is the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Of course, we cannot overemphasize the importance of bringing down the level of the saber-rattling between the protagonists -- the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF.

This, if they (the two sides) are to return to the negotiating table to thresh out their differences.

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

ONLINE NEWS

03 SEPTEMBER 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN | AFP-PNP Team captures 2 rebels, recovers 20 rifles in Kidapawan

CGMTY, Mawab, Compostela Valley Province (DWDD) – A joint police-military security operation leads to the arrest of two NPA rebels and seizure of 20 M16 armalite rifles in Brgy Katipunan, Kidapawan City on Friday, 01 September 2017 .

The combined troops of 39th Infantry Battalion, Kidapawan City Police, and Cotabato Province Public Safety and Security Company (CPPSSC) were checking on reports from the populace that armed men who were planning to conduct atrocities against civilians were seen at Purok 3 of the said barangay.

Colonel Roberto Ancan, 1002 Infantry Brigade commander revealed that a group of NPA new recruits were being task to conduct tactical offensives at unspecified areas.

"With this information at hand, the military together with the police immediately planned an operation purposely to foil an impending threat," added Ancan.

While proceeding to BrgyKatipunan, the joint police-military team chanced upon two persons carting suspicious objects which were later found to be two M16 rifles. The arrested persons were identified as WowiaBoton and George Cuyo, who are both NPA members under alias Choi of Guerila Front 53.

The arrested duo later revelead the location of an arms cache where additional 18 M16 armalite rifles were discovered and recovered. Arrested duo Boton and Cuyo were turned over to Kidapawan police for filing of appropriate charges.

Major General Noel S Clement, 10ID commander lauded the police and military forces involved in the succesful security operation against the NPA and gave assurance of the military's respect and observance of the Human Rights (HR) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). "We were able to prevent the NPA rebels from wrecking fear and havoc among the civilians," Clement said.

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

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

Clement added, "We have seen here the strong cooperation of the concerned people who were fed up by the presence of the NPA rebels who still continue to threaten, extort and recruit hapless civilians,"

Police and military have intensified its security measures in the said area. **10DPAO / MCAG**

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Military, police, civilians donate blood

By Priam Nepomuceno September 2, 2017. 5:51 pm

MANILA -- An estimated 2,000 civilians, reservists, police and military personnel participated in the simultaneous bloodletting activity at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters in Quezon City and various Unified Commands Saturday morning.

The event was spearheaded by the Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay Inc. (DADBI) in coordination with the AFP Peace and Development Office, AFP Reserve Command, PNP Peace Office and other stakeholders, military public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

DADBI, a nongovernment organization, is chaired by its founder Napoleon Marilag, also an active partner of the AFP in previous blood-letting activities.

Saturday's activity carried the theme, "Dugo Para Sa Kapayapaan", which is in line with the celebration of National Peace Consciousness Month. Serving as guest-of-honor and speaker was Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Arevalo said the project aims to help save lives by giving free and safe blood that would benefit the wounded government security forces fighting in Marawi and other victims of the crisis.

"One of the most crucial needs of our wounded soldiers, and most patients in all public and private hospitals, is blood. Which is why the AFP is very thankful for DADBI in initiating this event and for all the donors who have participated," AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said.

"Of course in this peace month, we are hoping that no one will have the need for blood. But this gesture alone manifests the recognition of our sacrifices and the risks involved in our duties in the uniformed services," he added. (PNA)

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Bangkay ng sundalo na nasawi sa Marawi, nakatakdang iuwi sana ngayong araw sa Camarines Sur

Report by: (Unit), (Date), (Location), (Time), (Author), (Editor)

NAGA CITY – Nakatakdang iuwi na sa rehiyong Bicol ang bangkay ng isang sundalo na nasawi sa nagpapatuloy na bakbakan sa Marawi City.

Sa nakalap na impormasyon ng Bombo Radyo Naga, nabatid na iuwi ang bangkay ni Cpl Jojenes Mebato, tubong San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur na miyembro ng 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion na kabilang sa mga nakikipaglaban sa mga teroristang Maute sa nasabing lungsod.

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

Rep. Dimaporo calls for more troops in Lanao del Norte as Congress deliberates new BBL

By

Erwin M. Mascariñas, News5 | InterAksyon
| September 1, 2017, 10:05 PM

Butuan City – As President Rodrigo Duterte pushes for the passage and approval of a new version of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) being deliberated in Congress, 1st District Representative of the province of Lanao del Norte (LDN) Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo is calling for more troops to be deployed in his province.

During the second State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Rodrigo Duterte reiterated his pledge to push for the immediate passage of the proposed BBL, citing the government's commitment to achieve just and lasting peace.

The final version of the BBL will replace the earlier version that was held off during the 16th Congress.

Last July 17, Duterte received the revised BBL by 21-member Bangsamoro Transition Committee.

Representative Dimaporo is lobbying for a stronger military presence for fear of a possible repeat of the August 2008 incident where forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked the province:

In a privilege speech in Congress on August 29, Dimaporo expressed his concern over the need to ensure tighter security in Lanao del Norte.

Through the House Resolution, Dimaporo asked Congress to direct the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to maintain five battalions in Lanao Del Norte. Back then, the MILF attacked following the failure of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) that the government under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the MILF signed in 2008. MOA-AD failed due to opposition from different sectors in Mindanao and other parts of the country.



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"August marks the 9th year since that attack. Every year, since that dreadful morning of August 8, I remind myself of the lives lost, the pain, and suffering inflicted on the people of Lanao del Norte. Tonight, I remind the nation that justice for the families has not yet been delivered. The 2008 attack of the MILF should never be forgotten. We should not forget how our province supported the peace agenda. Yet, still, they attacked the province. We should not forget that they cunningly misinformed their AFP counterparts regarding their conduct of training exercises, yet in actuality they were massing their forces for a planned attack on Kauswagan and Kolambugan. We should not forget that, although their fight is with the government they came down from the mountains with the objective to harm innocent civilians," Dimaporo said in his privilege speech.

Dimaporo added, "with that in mind, I ask that the security of Lanao del Norte be ensured to prevent another recurrence of an MILF attack while the 17th Congress deliberates the BBL ...

"What we've learned from the MOA-AD attack is that two battalions are not enough. The area of the province is too wide, causing one battalion to be spread too thin. It was only when five battalions arrived in the province that we were able to push back and restrain the MILF beyond the boundary of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur."

Aside from his proposal to increase the military presence in his province, Dimaporo also filed resolutions in Congress directing the Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Philippine Air Force, to convert Balo-i airport to an Air Force base to support the security forces in the area.

Newsinfo.inquirer.net

4 soldiers killed in clash with NPA in Nueva Vizcaya

By: Villamor Visava Jr @VillVisavaJrINQ - @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Northern Luzon / 03:28 PM September 02, 2017

SANTIAGO CITY—Four soldiers were killed in a clash with New People’s Army (NPA) rebels in a village in Kasibu town in Nueva Vizcaya province on Friday, a report from the Philippine Army’s 84th Infantry Battalion said.

The report identified Staff Sgt. Dexter John Tagacay, Corporals Jayson Sabado and Rusty Galan and Private First Class Abraham Lindo among the company of soldiers who chanced upon the rebels in sitio Manlan, Dine village before noon on Friday and were killed in an ensuing firefight. **GAL**

Read more: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/927462/4-soldiers-killed-in-clash-with-npa-in-nueva-vizcaya#ixzz4rbVQ1kaI>

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