

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 September 2017

Tuesday

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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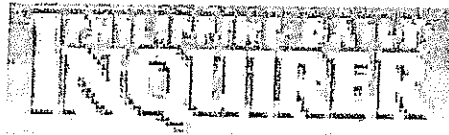
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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 | TUESDAY

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "KIKO"
ESTIMATED AT 490 KM EAST OF CASIGURAN, AURORA
(As of 4:00 PM - September 4, 2017)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:44 AM	6:05 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:27 PM	4:35 AM
FIRST QUARTER AUG 29 4:13 PM	FULL MOON SEP 8 3:03 PM
LOW TIDE 4:56 PM 0.14 Meter	HIGH TIDE 9:12 AM 1.15 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	SEP 6	SEP 7	SEP 6	SEP 7	SEP 6	SEP 7		
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	22 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
LAOAG	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 23 °C	15 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C	<p>SAGOT KO, PAGALA MO!</p>		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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



BACK TO THE BATTLEFIELD Battle-scarred soldiers wounded in the raging Marawi City siege wait for their return flight tickets to Mindanao after getting their treatment in Manila from bullet and shrapnel wounds sustained in battle. Budget carrier Cebu Pacific has provided free airlift support to the soldiers and relief goods as the military prepares for the final push to rid Marawi City of Maute Group terrorists. NONIE REYES

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MGA SUGATANG BAYANI Dumating sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 ang 11 sundalong wounded in action (WIA) mula sa bakbakan sa Marawi City, upang bumalik sa kani-kanilang Army Headquarter units, bago magbalik sa full active duty status.

ALI VICOY

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Marawi City in conflict: ARMM seeks investments in other areas

By MANUEL T. CAYON | [@awimailbox](#)
Mindanao Bureau Chief

Part Two

DAVAO CITY—The city of Marawi holds a special place among the Moro Muslims' largest tribe: the Maranaos. Marawi City also preserved most of its homogeneity as the central trading place of the most conservative among the Moro tribes in Mindanao. However, its homogeneity that clings to far-reaching identification to clan and bloodlines has its drawback.

The attack on this city of more than 400,000 residents by a relatively unknown and uninfluential Maute family from the interior town of Butig apparently shows this difficulty.

On one hand, there is the thin line between clannish and tribal affiliation and the loyalty and commitment that go along with it. On the other hand, there are individual and collective aspirations of families and communities to seek gainful and uninterrupted livelihood activities to which a



IN this photo provided by Malacañan Palace in Manila, President Duterte, addresses the troops as he congratulates them during his third visit to the embattled Marawi City in southern Philippines on August 24. An estimated 40 gunmen remain in Marawi and are continuing to fight as troops advance in previously scenic lakeside communities that are now a smoldering wasteland of disfigured buildings. AP

number of Maranaos had to leave their families behind and migrate to other cities and capital towns.

The Maranaos, to note, are known for their economic and enterprising activities in many

parts of the country. For many of them, the conflict has truncated this way of life.

Magic bullet

THE soil of Mindanao has been

soaked with blood.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), in particular, has wrestled long over two Moro insurgencies that have since agreed to work out a unified blueprint for basic law for the Bangsamoro (literally, Moro Nation). The new resistance bloc gunning for Marawi City could be more worrisome with its terrorist trademark, discarding any semblance of a principled revolutionary organization.

But the ARMM has its own panacea. One, seek the help of its own religious scholars—the ulama—and learned men to counter what many global Islamic leaders say is the use by terrorists of Koranic verses in twisted interpretation to rally supporters.

The ARMM gathered for the first time the country's Ulama to a national meeting in Cotabato City, where the ARMM regional government center is located, one month before the Maute Group swooped down on Marawi City on May 23.

CONTINUED ON A2

ABIA 13.6448 *Source: BSP (4 September 2017)*

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CONTINUED FROM A1

It would not be smooth-sailing though.

Under siege

MANY of the 300 Muslim scholars who attended received letters from a group called Dawla Islamiya threatening them with physical harm, including their family members and relatives, if they continued with the national meeting.

Nothing happened to the ulama, or any their family members, however. Except that on that fateful day in May the terrorist group known as Maute attacked government and military facilities and occupied residential and business establishments. The siege was countered by government forces.

The armed conflict in Marawi is now running past a hundred days.

The Associated Press reported the violence in Marawi has led to the death of nearly 800 people, including more than 600 militants. The

violence between the government forces and the Islamic extremists has displaced a total of 353,358 persons, Office of Civil Defense data revealed.

These people represented 74,981 households from the 96 barangays of Marawi City and 20 municipalities of Lanao del Sur. Of the total affected population, 4,086 households or 18,294 persons are staying in 78 evacuation centers, while 70,895 households or 335,064 persons are staying with their relatives tracked in seven regions, government data in July revealed.

Malacañang has continuously assured that government forces may fully retake the city in a matter of a "few days". Rehabilitation has also been placed on initial gear with policewomen and women soldiers wearing the Muslim headwear hijab sent to the evacuation centers to secure the evacuees and prepare them for the construction phase.

Call for investments

THE ARMM's second remedy against underdevelopment is to pursue the development path and call for more investments to uplift the country's poorest provinces under its wings and ignite development.

Rima Hassan, chairman of the ARMM Business Council and a Basilan-based businesswoman, has urged the ARMM government to find investors that can match the resources and skills of the local folks.

"We hope that there will be power plants, milling plants, manufacturing plants and factories that can generate a large number of jobs," Hassan said. "We want to maximize the sustainable use of our natural resources and take advantage of our serene nature and promote eco-halal tourism."

Hataman also made a similar appeal for more investments in Basilan and Sulu.

"We want more investments in the region to prevent the formation of lawless elements in these areas,

because what brings them to this situation is the lack of job opportunities, which can be addressed if there are more businesses that will create productive activities and provide them with livelihoods to support their families."

Hassan's call was also agreed by business representatives during the recent 2017 Investment Priorities Plan Roadshow for Basilan and Sulu held in Zamboanga City last month. The roadshow was organized by the region's Regional Board of Investments (RBOI).

Lawyer Ishak Mastura, chairman and managing head of RBOI-ARMM, said a number of people are ready to invest in region.

"As of July, we have registered P3.65 billion worth of investments despite the ongoing Marawi crisis, and we are expecting additional P1.5 billion in investments from companies engaged in cacao plantations and other agri-based projects before the year ends," Mastura added. **To be concluded**

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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20 BIFF, 15 MILF fighters killed in encounters with gov't troops

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

An official of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Sunday said that at least 20 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and 15 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members have so far been killed as a result of previous clashes in the so-called "SPMS box" or the adjoining towns of Shariff Aguak, Pagatin (Datu Piang), Mamasapano and Salibu in Maguindanao province.

Captain Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the casualty figure was based on information provided by sources on the ground.

He said just last Friday, a firefight

p.m.," Encinas said.

"Nitong Sababo at Liggo wala pang mga reported na mga incident na nagkaroon uli ng bakbakan (This Saturday and Sunday we have not received any report that a firefight took place)," he added.

Encinas said since fighting erupted last August 2, government troops provided artillery fire support and air support against the enemy.

"Meron din tayong ginagamit na armor assets natin. Andun din iyung ating tropa as a forward observer na kapag nagre-render tayo ng indirect fire support, andoon iyung tropa natin nagbibigay ng direction kung saan ipapatama yung 105 (howitzer) natin," Encinas said.

also transpired in the area which reportedly resulted in the death of a still unidentified MILF commander.

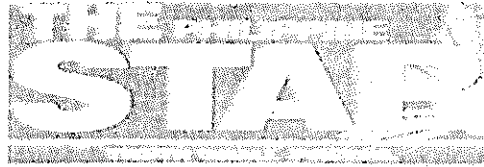
Encinas said operations are still ongoing to flush out the BIFF fighters from the area.

"Hanggang ngayon ongoing pa rin iyung operation pero hindi siya araw-araw na nagkakaroon ng firefight. The last time na nagkaroon ng firefight is last Friday kung saan meron namang isang MILF leader ang namatay. Iyun na iyung pinakahuli last Friday, 12:20 ng tanghali (Up to this time operations are still ongoing but it's not every day that there is a firefight. The last time that there was a firefight was last Friday wherein an MILF leader was killed. That's the last, it happened at 12:20

"Actually ano naman kasi ito, joint operation ito. May effort tayo sa certain areas, sa ibang municipalities na posibleng withdrawal route nitong mga grupo na ito. Bago inilunsad itong operation may coordination, actually joint talaga siya. May effort tayo sa ibang municipalities within SPMS Box at adjacent areas, within dun sa pinaka-main battle area kasi ng BIFF at saka MILF iyung Datu Salibu, particularly dyan sa Brgy Tee, Brgy Andavit. Doon kasi nagtatago itong grupo ni Abu Toraype," he said.

Encinas said despite the fighting, they don't expect any spillover of it to other areas. He also clarified that the fighting is not a spillover of the ongoing conflict in Marawi City.

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'NPA in Ilocos Sur using child warriors'

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur – Communist guerrillas in Ilocos Sur are using child warriors, the military has learned

Lt. Col. Julio Osias, 81st Infantry Battalion commander, said some New People's Army rebels who recently surrendered told them that many NPA combatants are as young as 16.

"We are tracking these minors so that their respective families will be made aware... They could help the government in persuading their kin to leave the armed struggle," Osias said

Maj. Gen. Angelito de

Leon, 7th Infantry Division commander, said recruiting minors to join the armed struggle violates Republic Act 7610 or the law providing for stronger deterrence and special protection against child abuse, exploitation and discrimination, as well as the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

De Leon vowed to strengthen intelligence gathering and civil-military operations to engage the youth in a more meaningful life through various development activities.

– Artemio Dumlao

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**MANILA BULLETIN**
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Reds' arms cache seized in Surigao Sur

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City — Combat maneuvering troops of the Army's 36th Infantry Battalion (36th IB) seized bomb-making devices/materials, explosives, landmines, assorted live ammunitions and medical kits during a gun battle with communist insurgents in sitio Himat-e, Barangay Cayale, Tago, Surigao del Sur.

Initial report received here said some members of 36th IB are still conducting clearing and mopping up operations in the encounter site while a platoon-size combat maneuvering troops of the same unit are conducting hot pursuit operations against the fleeing New People's

Army (NPA) rebels, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Elements of 36th IB under the command of Lt. Col. Randolph I. Rojas were conducting village security and peace and development program in Barangay Cayale and neighboring areas when they engaged some 30 heavily armed NPA rebels at 4:55 p.m. on Sunday, a field report said.

The rebels were believed to be members of the guerilla-Front Committee 30 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) under a certain "Commander Niko," Civil Military Operations Officer Capt. Francisco Garello, Jr. said.

He said the rebels disengaged themselves from the fierce gun battle which lasted up to 30 minutes.

Operating troops also seized in the

encounter site blasting caps, detonating cords, batteries, ICOM radio, assorted live ammunitions, and backpacks containing the rebels' personal belongings, the CMO officer said.

He added that hot pursuit operation is still ongoing against the fleeing rebels who reportedly withdrew towards the Diwata range of the same province.

As of press time, no one was reported hurt on both sides during the gunbattle in Barangay Cayale, he added.

Meanwhile, the command center of the 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade deployed more combat maneuvering troops to beef up pursuing elements of the 36th IB in Cayale area while the Surigao del Sur Police Provincial Mobile Safety Company also conducted blocking positions along the possible escape route of withdrawal of the fleeing rebels, it was learned.

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Newsbits

- **NPA wanted for murder arrested**

BUTUAN CITY – An alleged member of the New People's Army (NPA) was arrested by the combined elements of Army and police along the national highway of Barangay Daywan, in Claver town, Surigao del Norte. In a flash report received by Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, regional director of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) from Surigao del Norte Police Provincial Office (PPO) director Senior Supt. Antony B. Maghari, suspect Peter Awa Larase, alias "Ka Hector" did not resist arrest when accosted by the combined elements of 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB) and Surigao del Norte Police Provincial Safety Company (SDN-PPSC) at 4:50 p.m. on Saturday. "Ka Hector" was an alleged member of Iparrang Sossyalistang Partido ng Ilogawa 16-C (SSPP 16-C) of guerilla Front Committee 16 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC), Chief Supt. Felix said, quoting the initial report of Maghari. He is wanted for multiple attempted murder under criminal case number 12058. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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NPA sightings, encounters slow down work on P1-B Villaverde Trail

By **LIEZLE BASA IÑIGO**

SAN NICOLAS, Pangasinan — There should be around 100 construction workers finishing the Villaverde Trail, a P1-billion road project between Pangasinan and Nueva Vizcaya, but due to fears of New People's Army (NPA) rebels roaming the area, only 20 people have returned to work at the construction site since August 15.

"The workers are terrified of the encounters (between government troops and rebels), so many of them have not gone back to work," a source from the project implementers told *The Manila Bulletin* yesterday.

Fierce clashes with the NPA guerrillas happened in Barangay Malico, here, last July 28, prompting the military and police to instruct the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and project contractor Northern Builders to pull out their people from the construction site.

When the area was already se-

cured by government troops, work on the project resumed on August 15, but only 20 out of the 100 construction workers of Northern Builders reported for duty.

Ten days later, another shooting incident took place with the Pangasinan Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) claiming it killed three heavily-armed NPA guerrillas in the area. But the families of those killed disputed the claim and said their next of kin were treasure hunters and died of hack and stab wounds and not bullets.

Engr Larry Flores, DPWH-1 33rd Engineering District (Pangasinan) project engineer, said they are working double-time on the Villaverde Trail to meet the December deadline for its completion.

The Villaverde Trail would be used as an alternative route for motorists between Manila and the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan, especially when the Dalton Pass in Sta. Fe is closed due to landslides and vehicular accidents.



OFFICE OF THE

35, 5295

SECURITY RISK SITE — Construction goes on at the Villaverde Trail in San Nicolas, Pangasinan, but with only 20 construction workers instead of the original 100 because of fears over roaming New People's Army (NPA) rebels. (Courtesy of Engineer Larry Flores, DPWH-1 33rd Engineering District)

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Malaya

The National Newspaper

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Año: Marawi conflict ends before I retire

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said the dragging armed conflict in Marawi City would not last beyond his retirement date, which is on October 26, as the operations to rid the city of Maute Group terrorists are now getting the “finishing touches.”

“Of course, that will be over before I retire. We’re now in the final phase, finishing touches. That’s why the fighting has been more intense now,” Año told reporters in an ambush interview in Camp Aquino in Tarlac City.

Año, who assumed the top military post in December last year, was in Tarlac City to lead assumption rites for Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat who is the new Northern Luzon Command chief, vice Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo who is reaching the retirement age of 56 today.

Año said troops have cleared “so many buildings” but only 14 of them were wounded. “The injuries of our troops are not that seri-

See AÑO > Page B6

AÑO

ous,” he said.

Año did not say how many buildings were cleared of enemy and improvised bombs.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, said the military cleared seven structures on Sunday. She could not immediately say the number of structures left for clearing.

Officials have said about 50 Maute members were still inside the main battle area, which is about 500 square meters in size. The group is said to be holding about 30 civilian hostages.

The fighting which started on May 23 has resulted in the death of 636 Maute members, 145 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians. It has also led to the recovery of 672 firearms and 1,400 improvised explosive devices and ordnance of the enemy.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, head of the AFP’s Western Mindanao Command, said: “We are now in the final phase of our operations and we are expecting more intense and bloody fighting. We may suffer heavier casualties as the

enemy becomes more desperate.”

He also said the number of Maute fighters was diminishing and a small number of women and children, most likely family members of the rebels, are now engaged in combat.

“Our troops in the field are seeing

women and children shooting at our troops so that’s why it seems they are not running out of fighters,” he said.

Citing information provided by four hostages who had escaped from the rebels, Galvez said there were some 56 Christian hostages - most of them women - and about 80 male residents may have been forced to take up arms and fight the military.

The fighting was concentrated in an area around a mosque. He said soldiers were taking control of an average 35 buildings a day and at that rate, it could be three weeks before the city was under government control.

Fighting in Marawi was intense on Monday, with heavy gunfire and explosions ringing out across the picturesque, lakeside town, the heart of which has been devastated by near-daily government air strikes.

Helicopters circled above to provide air cover for ground troops as fighting raged, with bursts of smoke rising above the skyline as bombs landed on rebel positions.

ABDULLAH MAUTE DEAD?

Armed Forces public-affairs-chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military has gotten fresh information about the death of Abdullah Maute, one of the two leaders of the Maute Group.

Arevalo said Maute’s brother and also leader of the group, Omar, is believed to

be still in Marawi City, along with senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon. Both the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

Arevalo said the information came from “reliable sources” but it still has to go through the process of validation which includes the recovery of the body. If the body could not be recognized, a DNA test will have to be conducted, he said.

Galvez said intelligence showed Abdullah Maute may have been killed last month in an air strike.

Postings on Facebook and chatter over the past two days on Telegram, a messaging application used by Islamic State and its sympathizers, had carried tributes to Abdullah, referring to him by one of his pseudonyms, he said.

“There is no 100 percent confirmation until we see his cadaver but this is enough to presume he died already,” he said.

Petinglay said information indicated that Abdullah died in an air strike last August 14.

In June and July, the military said it received information that Abdullah and Omar were killed in a firefight though the reports are being validated.

In April or a month before the Marawi conflict broke out, President Duterte said there were indications that Hapilon died in an air strike in Lanao del Sur in January. The information proved wrong as Hapilon was among those who led the attack on Marawi. — *With Reuters*

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Año installs new NOLCOM chief

By FRANCO G. REGALA

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City — Philippine Marine Commandant (PMC) Maj. Gen. Emmanuel B. Salamat was sworn in as the new head of the Armed Forces North Luzon Command (NOLCOM) at the Change of Command ceremony at the NOLCOM headquarters in Camp Servilano Aquino, this city.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Eduardo Año administered the oath to Salamat and expressed confidence in the new NOLCOM chief in addressing various issues, including security at Bajo De Masinloc in the West, the Balintang Channel in the North and the Philippine Rise in the East.

Salamat will also be able to contribute more in terms of using his strategy in combating terrorism and insurgency in Northern Luzon, said Año.

Salamat, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1985, replaces Lt. Gen. Romeo T. Tanalgo, who retires this week at the age of 56.

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DND concerned over Nokor bomb test

By Nikko Dizon
and Philip C. Tubeza
@Team Inquirer

The Department of National Defense (DND) on Monday expressed "great concern" over the hydrogen bomb test conducted by North Korea over the weekend, but urged the public to remain calm.

"The proliferation of this weapon increases the tension not only on the Korean peninsula but also adversely affects the peace and security in the whole of Asia," the DND said in a statement.

While the hydrogen bomb test

did not directly affect the country, the government "continues to monitor the situation," it said.

The department's Office of Civil Defense (OCD) likened the news of North Korea's nuclear test to an approaching typhoon.

Assistant Secretary Kristofer Purisima said the OCD was coordinating with other agencies and local government units (LGUs), particularly those on the country's eastern seaboard, to ensure public safety.

"There's no need to panic," Purisima said in a media briefing in Malacañang on Monday. "I don't think we're in the direct

line even if Guam is targeted. We're just preparing."

Speaking to reporters in Tarlac City on Monday, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said the government always prepared for a "fallout" from the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Very dangerous

From a military perspective, he said North Korea's hydrogen bomb test was a cause for concern.

"It's really very dangerous. But the AFP can only act when there is a real threat and there is already a need for operational

decisions to make," Año said.

"But for now we leave it to the national government and our Foreign Affairs [Department] to make the necessary announcement or comment about what North Korea did yesterday," he added.

Purisima said the OCD was coordinating with relevant national government agencies to ensure the people's safety.

North Korea on Sunday said that it conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test of what it said was an advanced hydrogen bomb for a long-range missile.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have been high since last month when North Korea threatened to launch a salvo of missiles in the sea near the US Pacific territory of Guam.

Purisima said the OCD would coordinate with LGUs on the country's eastern seaboard, including Cagayan Valley, the Bicol region and Eastern Visayas, to make sure they were prepared for any eventuality.

"From the trajectory, if it's going to be Guam, our eastern seaboard should be prepared. But sometimes, you really don't know what they want," he said.

The OCD chief said the government's contingency measures included pinpointing possible evacuation areas should there be a nuclear fallout.

"No. 1, we're checking our assets. No. 2, we're checking our preparedness," he said.

When asked if the country had ready fallout shelters, Purisima said: "I don't know the actual details or the specific locations."

"But we're preparing. This is similar to what we do when there's [an approaching] typhoon. We're going to wake up our LGUs," he said. INQ

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The Manila Times

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11 foreign militants killed in Marawi

SECURITY forces had killed at least 11 foreign militants along with over 600 members of the Maute group in fierce clashes in Marawi City, officials said Monday.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces in Western Mindanao, said some 150 soldiers have been killed since the fighting started on May 23 when the Maute terrorists occupied Marawi in their bid to declare the city a province of the Islamic State (IS).

"Despite its losses, the government will never concede to lawless elements and will even further its efforts to put an end to these groups who threaten our freedom and democracy," said Medina, who inspected troops at the battle zone over the weekend.

He did not say whether the enemy casualties were based on body counts or intelligence reports. The identities of the foreigners remain unknown, although previous military statements claimed some of them were from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

While in Marawi, Medina was briefed by the 1st Marine Brigade and Naval Special Operations Group on the progress of the military operations against the IS-linked militants, who are still holding dozens of civilian hostages, including a Catholic priest and church workers.

Medina also visited wounded soldiers in hospitals in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro and had meals with soldiers.

Last week, the military deployed 102 female soldiers and police-women to help local efforts in addressing the needs of families displaced by the crisis. The contingent is composed of 40 policewomen and 62 army members – mostly Muslims – who will be assigned to different evacuation centers in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte and in Iligan City.

They underwent special training on gender and development and studied modules on cultural sensitivity prior to their deployment.

They will also assist in the many aspects of recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi.

No proof of Abdullah's death

Meanwhile, the military said it has yet to receive evidence that Abdullah Maute, one of the leaders of the Maute group, has been killed.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces public affairs chief, said the military has no proof that Abdullah was among those killed by soldiers.

"Until we have a physical evidence in our hands that would allow us to confirm 100 percent that it was his (Abdullah) body or if we won't be able to recognize such, we can conduct DNA testing that would show that it is indeed him, we are not saying 100 percent that Abdullah was indeed neutralized," Arevalo said.

He added that the military will wait for the confirmation of reports that Abdullah has been killed.

On Sunday, Malacañang said Maute leader and Islamic State Southeast Asian "emir" Isnilon Hapilon has escaped Marawi and was seen in Basilan.

But Arevalo said Hapilon is still inside the battle zone, citing "independent sources."

On Monday, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año gave assurances that the crisis in Marawi will be over before he retires on October 26.

"It will be finished before I retire," Año told reporters at the sidelines of the leadership turnover at the Northern Luzon Command in Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac City.

"We are already in our final phase of operations, we are finishing touches already that is why the fighting there has been intense for the past days," he added.

"Either they surrender or die, so that we can start our reconstruction," the military chief warned.

**AL JACINTO
AND DEMPSEY REYES**



Tempo

AFP: Abdullah Maute dead

By FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces (AFP) yesterday said there are strong indications that Maute Group leader Abdullah Maute is dead.

No less than AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez made the claim, citing multiple sources, according to Task Force Marawi spokesperson Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay.

Petinglay said one of the indicators is the tribute made in his honor. It is believed that the terrorist leader was killed last month.

Abdullah together with his brother Omar and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon led the Marawi siege last May 23 that has so far resulted

in more than 800 people dead.

Petinglay, however, Abdullah's death still needs validation.

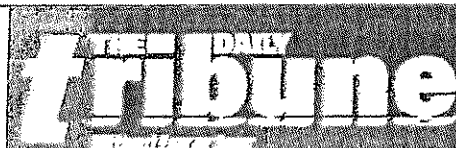
"However, we still have to validate this information since the AFP has to follow a process. We need to get the dead body and have it undergo DNA (testing) before we can say truly confirm that he is already dead," she added.

As the fighting entered its 105th day, death toll among the terrorists has climbed to 639 as of 7 p.m. Sunday. A total of 145 government troops and 45 civilians have died.

A total of 1,400 Improvised Explosive Devices and Unexploded Ordnance were recovered in the different structures in the main battle area.

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Military believes Abdullah Maute is dead

One of the leaders of the Islamist extremist Maute group responsible for the attack in Marawi City may have been killed during a gun battle with government troops trying to retake the beleaguered city, a military official yesterday said.

Citing information culled from social media, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the commanding general of the military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), yesterday said the military believes that Abdullah Maute, one of two brothers leading the City siege, was killed

in an air strike last month.

"Abdullah Maute has already been killed. Chatter over Telegram indicates this," he told a news conference in Marawi City.

Galvez said the information is based on entries in the Arabic language on Telegram, a messaging application used by Islamic State (IS) and its sympathizers which carried tributes to Abdullah, referring to him by one of his pseudonyms.

The military official showed the media
Turn to page 3



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Military believes Abdullah Maute is dead

From page 1

online posts that paid tribute to the “martyred” Sheik Al Miyahad Abu Al Hassan, the name that Abdullah Maute goes by in the IS network.

According to Galvez, the military is working to get “physical evidence” such as DNA to confirm Abdullah’s death.

He also said Abdullah’s brother, Omar, is still alive.

Abdullah and Omar led militants who overran Marawi City on May 23. The attackers, called the Maute group, had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. The brothers reportedly plotted the Marawi siege.

The Armed Forces leadership in Manila, however, stressed it cannot positively comment with certainty on the alleged death of Maute until it has recovered his body or physical evidence showing conclusively that he has been neutralized or killed in the ongoing clearing operations.

And in the event that the body has been badly damaged or corrupted, this includes DNA sampling, said AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Until these requirements are satisfied, he stressed, the AFP cannot “100 percent” claim that the terror chief has been killed or neutralized.

“We are continuously taking information to validate this (Abdullah’s reported death),” Arevalo said, adding they have no exact information on the time and date of the terror chief’s reported death.

Government security forces are still trying to retake the city, hoping to liberate the city soon.

Another deadline?

Meanwhile, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday vowed that the dragging Marawi City siege will be over before he retires next month.

“It will be finished by the time I retire. We are already in the final phase, finishing touches,” said Año, who is reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 on October 26.

Last June, the AFP chief expressed hope that Marawi City would be liberated from the hands of the IS-inspired terrorists on or before June 12.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also made at least three “deadlines” for the government troops to finish the conflict.

But the siege is still ongoing up

to now – more than 100 days since, with the terrorists, led by Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who continue to put up heavy resistance.

“The fighting now is intense but fortunately yesterday and last night (Sunday), we cleared so many buildings that we don’t have any killed in action, we only have about 14 wounded but only with slight injuries,” said Año.

The AFP chief added the terrorists are continuously repositioning.

“They are now (in a) do or die (situation) but we will not stop. We will finish this,” he vowed.

“Either they surrender or they die there,” the military chief stressed.

The siege, erupted last May 23 when government troops attempted to arrest Hapilon – the designated emir or leader of IS in Southeast Asia, has already claimed the lives of more 600 government troops and terrorists.

Forty-five civilian were also caught in the crossfire.

Relatedly, former Vice President Jejomar Binay has asked the government to include the distribution of lots inside a military base in Marawi City to their present occupants in its rehabilitation plans for Lanao del Sur’s capital city that has been ruined by armed conflict.

In a letter to Defense chief Lorenzana, Binay cited a petition from several residents of Marawi City who have been living within a military reservation which he received when he was chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

“These residents had requested the agency’s help in transferring to them ownership of the lots they occupied. Sadly, the change in administration precluded any further action on their request,” Binay wrote.

The former HUDCC chairman urged Lorenzana, as Defense secretary and as martial law administrator, to consider his proposal in the government’s rehabilitation program for Marawi.

“I firmly believe such a move will help Marawi and the people of Marawi recover from their ordeal and remove a possible source of conflict in the area,” he stressed.

Binay also said it would be in the best interest of the nation as a whole for the government to release the lands in favor of the actual occupants. **Mario J. Mallari, Pat C. Santos and PNA**

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Hapilon still in Marawi – ‘Bato’

ELUSIVE Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon is still holed up in Marawi City with other remaining leaders and members of the ISIS-inspired Maute Group, Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa said yesterday citing intelligence sources.

“Well ang sabi ng mga ground commanders ng Armed Forces, andun pa raw sa loob at yung ground commander din namin dun na si Col. Anduyan, ‘yan din ang sinasabi nya. Nasa loob pa pati intel namin,” Dela Rosa said.

Dela Rosa referred to information from Sr. Supt. Rolando Anduyan, the

deputy regional director for operations of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Police Regional Office, who is personally supervising all ARMM police operations in Marawi City.

He also said that they are continuously validating reports that Maute supporters have penetrated some parts of Maguindanao in an effort to create diversions.

The PNP chief said that President Rodrigo Duterte has many sources from the ground, including some relatives, who are feeding him reliable information on what is really happening in Marawi.

The President’s grandmother, a full-blooded



HAPILON

Maranao, is from Lanao and he has many relatives in the war-ravaged city.

PNP STILL CHECKING IF MAUTE LEADER IS DEAD

The PNP chief also said



MAUTE

they are still checking reports that Abdullah Maute, one of leaders of the ISIS-inspired Maute Group that occupied Marawi City, has been killed in a military aerial bombing.

“We cannot confirm yet. We have to look for the body of the person if he is already dead,” he said.

Dela Rosa said police intelligence agents are looking for people who could provide them accurate information about the whereabouts of the elusive Maute leader and would need to make some exhumation in case he is really confirmed to have been killed so that the body could be subjected to a DNA test.

The PNP top cop said that from an investigator’s point of view, “we cannot say he is dead unless he is really dead,” with witnesses and scientific evidence backing such claim.

Alfred Dalizon

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Abdullah Maute dead?

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The military has received reports that Maute group leader Abdullah Maute was killed in a recent airstrike in Marawi.

"There are persistent reports that Abdullah of the Maute group was killed in the strike," Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command spokesperson, told reporters yesterday.

Petinglay said Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez revealed the reports during a briefing on the ground operations.

Petinglay also cited a video posted on the website of the Maute group paying tribute to Abdullah.

She said they could not confirm the reports in the absence of evidence, such as the remains of the terrorist.

"General Galvez said there must be a confirmation through DNA... to ascertain the reports," Petinglay said.

The military said soldiers are in a "final push" to neutralize the terrorists and liberate Marawi.

Galvez said the operation area is now limited to 20 hectares.

However, Galvez said it might still take a month to finish the operations because the troops are considering the safe recovery of the remaining hostages of the militants.

The Maute terrorists are believed to be holding around 30 hostages, including Catholic priest Teresito "Chito" Saganob.

The fighting has left 639 Maute members, 145 soldiers and 45 civilians dead.

Return to battle

As this developed, soldiers

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who have recovered from the injuries they sustained from the fighting in Marawi have returned to the battlefield.

At least 11 soldiers, who were recently discharged from the Philippine Army General Hospital at Fort Bonifacio, flew back to Marawi yesterday, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson said.

Tiongson said they are grateful for the free tickets given by Cebu Pacific (CEB) to support soldiers who decided to return to their respective units after recovering from their injuries. "It is meaningful... to make your soldiers feel that their sacrifices are being recognized and appreciated," he said.

The military said many of the wounded soldiers are determined to go back to the battlefield.

Tiongson said soldiers who are fit to take commercial flights could be flown via CEB flights from Cagayan de Oro or Manila and to any of its 37



Maute

domestic destinations.

CEB has also been granting a baggage allowance of 40 kilograms each to soldiers and policemen deployed in Mindanao provided they can show valid mission orders and identification cards. – With Michael Punongbayan, Rudy Santos, Evelyn Macairan

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IS MESSAGE



Abdullah Maute

ABDULLAH MAUTE DEAD, SAYS MILITARY

By Jeffrey Maitem
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Abdullah Maute, one of the leaders of Islamic State-inspired terrorists battling government forces for control of Marawi City, is dead, the military said on Monday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, chief of the Western Mindanao Command (Wescom), said the military had intercepted the latest communication among terrorists confirming Abdullah Maute had been killed in the war zone.

Galvez said the military got the information sent to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group through the messaging application Telegram.

'No 100-percent confirmation'

"Abdullah Maute is already dead. Chatter over Telegram indicates he was killed," Galvez told reporters during a news conference here.

"There is no 100-percent confirmation until we see his body, but this is enough to presume he died already," Galvez said.

But Abdullah's brother, Omar, is still alive, Galvez said.

The military earlier said it also received information that Omar had been killed.

"He was wounded and is still inside the main battle area," Galvez said.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Joint Task Force Marawi and Wescom, said the intercepted information was in Arabic, and that the military had to translate it.

Killed in airstrike

Petinglay said Abdullah Maute was killed in a military airstrike.

The information did not indicate when the terrorist leader died.

The Maute group, together with the Abu Sayyaf faction led by Isnilon Hapilon, seized parts of Marawi on May 23 to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

A military campaign to retake the city has killed more than 600 terrorists.

More than 130 soldiers and police and 45 civilians have been killed in the fighting.

—WITH A REPORT FROM
REUTERS INQ

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INQUIRER

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ISLAMIC STATE HAD DIFFERENT MISSION FOR HIM: MINDANAO

PURWOREJO KLAMPOK, INDONESIA—The quiet young Indonesian aircraft mechanic dashed out of his relatives' home in a hurry in February and disappeared.

The next time his anxious family would get word of him would be three months later, on the television news.

The authorities announced that the mechanic, Yoki Pratama Windyarto, 21, was one of seven Indonesians who had joined the Islamic State (IS) group and gone to the Philippines to fight on the island of Mindanao.

His family had not even known that he had a passport.

And then another shock. Weeks later, his mother, Sri Eny Windarti, received an anonymous call saying that her son had been martyred, and got a text message with a picture of him lying dead on the battlefield, a pool of blood under his head.

"What caused him to go there is a big question for us," she said. "We have no idea what happened to him."

30 foreign fighters

Windyarto was one of about 30 foreign fighters recruited by IS operatives to join the battle against the Philippine government in the city of Marawi, officials say.

That fight, which has been raging for months, has become the most intense military campaign that IS has supported outside Syria and Iraq.

The terrorists fighting in Marawi opposed the government long before they an-

nounced loyalty to the IS, also known as Isis (for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) or Isil (for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant).

But in addition to the propaganda value of linking themselves to the terrorist group, recent evidence suggests that they have received financing and other assistance from the IS command.

Among those helping to re-

cruit foreign fighters have been Indonesians who went to Syria, joined IS and rose to leadership positions, according to Sidney Jones, the director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, a research organization in Jakarta.

Another who has taken a leading role in recruitment for the group is a former law lecturer from Malaysia who is part of the inner circle of terrorist leaders in Marawi, the authorities say.

'Big party' in May

Once Windyarto arrived in the Philippines, he was told to recruit his jihadist friends to come to Mindanao for a "big party" in May.

"The Marawi operations received direct funding from Isis central and reveal a chain of command that runs from Syria through the Philippines to Indonesia and beyond," said a recent report by the institute.

The siege of Marawi began on May 23, when Philippine troops tried to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the IS leader in Southeast Asia, and stumbled upon hundreds of militants massing for an assault.

In Manila, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, a spokesperson for the

said that most of the foreign fighters had come from neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia.

Fighters from Arab countries and Bangladesh are believed to be among them, he said, but their sightings are unconfirmed.

"There have been a number of foreign fighters who made their way here under the guise of humanitarian workers," Padilla said. "Some come through the back door. It's a very porous border."

Most prominent foreigner

Today, the most prominent foreigner among the militants in the Philippines is Mahmud Ahmad, a Malaysian and one-time Islamic law lecturer who fled to Mindanao in 2014.

A seized video of a strategy



Yoki Pratama Windyarto celebrated his graduation from the Indonesia Aviation School in September last year. —PHOTO FROM FAMILY OF YOKI PRATAMA WINDYARTO

meeting before the battle shows Mahmud in the militants' inner circle with Hapilon, Maute and Maute's brother Abdullah, a fellow leader of the Maute group.

The former lecturer is known among the militants there as Doctor Mahmud.

"Dr. Mahmud appears to be senior to anyone operating in Indonesia, meaning whatever the intergroup frictions, all recognize a chain of command within the Isis hierarchy that they are obliged to obey by virtue of their oath," the report says.

Among those Mahmud helped bring to Marawi was Windyarto.

The young aircraft mechanic grew up in a mostly Muslim neighborhood in the central Java town of Purworejo Klampok, a tolerant community about 400 kilometers east of Jakarta.

The family is doing well by

local standards: His mother is an English teacher, his father a town official.

Aviation school

A few years ago, Windyarto was accepted into a university. But his parents said the cost was too high and sent him to Indonesia Aviation School, a strict boarding school in the city of Tangerang, west of Jakarta.

He began studying aviation maintenance there in 2013.

Jones, a leading expert on terrorism in Southeast Asia, said evidence indicated that Windyarto had been recruited by Islamists in person after he was allowed to leave campus.

By 2015, he had joined a little-known Islamist network called Al Hawariyun, or "The Helpers," and took part in military training outside Jakarta, according to her institute's report.

Soon after, Windyarto began making plans to go to Syria along with another member, Anggara Suprayogi, whose wife worked as a maid in Hong Kong and was part of a radical cell of domestic workers there, Jones said.

More than 500 Indonesians have joined IS in Syria, including families with children, Jones said.

Go to Mindanao

But when the two militants contacted Indonesian operatives with the IS in Syria, they were urged to go to Mindanao instead and told to contact Mahmud, the report says.

Then, on Feb. 27, Windyarto made a quick visit to the house in Bekasi when only his aunt was home, retrieving a flash data drive before rushing off.

He never spoke with a family member again.

On March 20, his parents, suspecting that he might have run off to join militants, filed a missing person's report and asked the police to block him from leaving the country.

Even so, they said they were shocked on May 31, when the Indonesian police announced on national television that their son and six other Indonesians were wanted for involvement in IS terrorism in Marawi.

The phone call that Windyarto's mother dreaded came on June 20. A man speaking English told her that her son had become a "shahid"—a martyr.

He texted her the picture of her son's body lying on the ground.

Family members cling to the hope that Windyarto may somehow be alive, perhaps having faked his death to escape. But there have been few answers.

"If we use our normal logic, it doesn't make sense," his uncle, Anto Kuswanto, said in Bekasi. "We educated him to be a good guy. He had never even been in an airplane." —NEW YORK

TIMES NEWS SERVICE INQ

September 2017



Pahina. 6

ABU SAYYAF LEADER, NAARESTO NG MALAYSIAN POLICE

KUALA LUMPUR — HAWAK na ngayon ng mga awtoridad ng Malaysia ang pinaghihinalaang lider ng teroristang grupong Abu Sayyaf na konektado sa Islamic State

Naaresto ng mga pulis si Hajar Abdul Mubin o mas kilala sa tawag na Abu Asrie, isang Pinoy, matapos ang isinagawang raid noong Miyerkules. Ito ay batay na rin sa sumbong na natanggap ng mga awtoridad mula sa isang taong hindi na ipinakilala sa media

Bukod kay Abu Asrie, hawak na rin ngayon ng pulisya ang pitong iba pang himihinalang miyembro rin ng grupo. Kabilang din dito ang isang Pinoy at anim na Malaysian na sinasabing galing pa sa Borneo, na maritime border din ng Malaysia sa Pilipinas

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Pahina. 12

ILANG MUKHA NG DROGA AT TULOY ANG GIYERA

HINDI dapat na basta isawalang-bahala ang pagdating ng idolohiyang Islamic State of Iraq and Syria sa Pilipinas, Malaysia at Indonesia.

Kaya tama lang ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng ating pamahalaan sa mga pamahalaang Malaysia at Indonesia laban sa ISIS.

Pinag-uusapan na ang posibleng joint patrol ng mga pwersang pandagat ng tatlong bansa at ang posible ring pagpasok ng mga pwersa ng tatlong bansa sa teritoryo ng bawat isa sa paghahabol sa mga teroristang ISIS.

NATATALO PERO...

Sa bansang Iraq at Syria, natatalo na ang ISIS sa digmaan laban sa mga Kano at Russia at ang mga pamahalaan ng nasabing mga bansa.

Subalit walang nakaalam kung kailan tala-ga matatapos ang lahat doon.

Gaya ng nagaganap sa Mindanao, bagama't nariryan na ang nalalapat na pagkatalo ng ISIS sa Marawi City, lumulundag o pinalulutang naman ang ibang mga pwersa nito sa ibang mga lugar.

Nakaugat na kasi ang ISIS sa mga organisasyong Abu Sayyaf Group, Maute Group at iba pa sa iba't ibang isla sa Mindanao mula sa pinakamalaking isla nito hanggang sa Basilan at Sulu.

At patuloy ang pag-sasagawa ng mga ito ng terorismo.

Pinakaimportante sa terorismong ISIS ang kagustuhan ng mga ito na magtatag ng caliphate o sarili nilang gobyerno at teritoryo hindi lang sa Pinas kundi sa Malaysia at Indonesia.

Parang katulad ng pagtatag ng ISIS ng caliphate sa boundary ng Iraq at Syria.

Kung makapagtatag ang mga ito ng caliphate, magagawa na nila ang gusto nila gaya ng pagpapatakbo ng normal na pamahalaan, pagkontrol sa mga yaman ng sakop nilang lugar at pagkontrol din sa lahat ng tao na na-

sasakupan nila.

MALALIM NA

Malalim nang nakaugat ang ISIS sa Indonesia dahil bawat lalawigan ito ay may nabuo nang mga cell o grupo na may idolohiya at armado.

Ganito rin sa Malaysia, lalo na sa parte ng Borneo na sakop ng Malaysia ngunit kine-claim naman ng mahal kong Pinas.

Hindi basta nasasakote ang mga terorista sa kanilang pagbiya-biyahe sa tatlong bansa at sa kanilang pagtutulungan.

Dito nga lang sa giyera sa Marawi, may mga Malaysian at Indonesian nang napatay ng ating mga sundalo at pulis.

Sa Malaysia naman, kahuhuli lang ng Malaysian police at military ang dalawang Filipino na lider at miyembro ng ASG.

05 September 2017



Pahina. 12

Kinilala ng Malaysia ang ASG leader na si Hajar Abdul Mubin - Abu Asrie.

Inakusahan ang dalawa at ang ASG mismo ng kidnap for ransom, pagpatay at pamumugot ng ulo at iba pa.

MARTIAL LAW

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo 'Digong' Duterte ang nagsasabing gusto niyang alisin ang martial law sa Mindanao.

Subalit nauudlot ito sa pagpapakita ng pwersa ng Maute at ASG sa labas ng Marawi, lalo na sa Maguindanao.

Kinumpirma ito ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front na hiniling ng pamahalaan na makipagtulugan laban sa ISIS.

Nasa paligid lang ang mga ito sa Butig na isang bayang unang pinagtayuan ng ISIS ng sentro ng caliphate nito ngunit nabawi ng mga pwersa ng pamahalaan.

Nakakalat naman sa Basilan, Sulu at iba pang lugar sa Mindanao ang iba pang mga pwersa ng mga ito na kinabibilangan

ng ASG

LABAN SA MGA LUNGSOD

Si PNP Chief Ronald 'Bato' dela Rosa ay nagsasabing naghahanda ang kapulisan sa posibleng paglundag ng ISIS sa iba't ibang lugar ng Pinas, kasama na ang Metro Manila.

Hindi nga imposibleng mangyari ito dahil nagaganap na ito sa iba't ibang sentrong lungsod sa ibang bansa gaya ng Barcelona sa Spain, Paris sa France, Berlin sa Germany at mayroon ding paisa-isa mismo sa Amerika.

Mayroon na rin mismong pagtatangka sa mga nakaraang mga buwan na magpasabog ang mga ito ng mga bomba sa Kalakhang Maynila ngunit nauudlot lamang.

MAGTULUNGAN

Dahil sa hindi imposibleng pagkakaroon ng pwersang ISIS sa iba't ibang lugar ng bansa, kabilang na ang Visayas at Luzon, dapat na mag-ing alerto ang lahat.

Ang mga mamamayan ay lubhang mahalaga sa labang ISIS at makatutulong ang mga ito sa mga awtoridad sa iba't ibang paraan.

Ang mabilis na pagbibigay ng impormasyon ukol sa ISIS ng mga mamamayan ay malaking tulong sa giyera sa terorismo.

Tanong: Paano ba sasanayin ang mga mamamayan na umamoy o kumilala sa mga ISIS para sa karampatang aksyon?

Magandang magsagawa ang mga awtoridad ng mga pagsasanay sa mga mamamayan ukol dito.

oOo

ANOMANG reklamo o puna, mangyaring i-text lamang sa 0922-8403333

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War in Mindanao not likely to go away



Ernesto M. Hilario

ABOUT TOWN

MORE than 100 days after the Maute terrorist group laid siege on Marawi City on May 23, the military appears well on the way to liberating the entire city.

Recently, government troops recaptured the Grand Mosque where the terrorists held an undetermined number of civilian hostages. The retaking of the Grand Mosque is considered a significant development in the ongoing conflict, as this is located in the central area of Marawi. The Mautes apparently used this and other mosques as their logistics hub and snipers' nest.

Earlier, the military made big progress toward liberating the entire city from terrorists when they were able to retake the city's police headquarters, which had also been used by the Mautes as staging point for attacks against government forces.

The military has also regained control of several strategic bridges from the Mautes. This is another accomplishment for the military, as the bridges led to the city's main business district where tall structures afforded the terrorists vantage points to pick off approaching soldiers.

Latest news reports indicate that the fighting is now confined to an

area of about 500 square meters, or the size of a residential lot in, say, a middle-class enclave in Metro Manila. But why can't the military dislodge the Mautes in that small area? The surrounding areas left by the Mautes are said to have been laced with various improvised explosive devices that have inflicted injuries on advancing government troops.

So, when will the fighting really stop so the displaced residents can go back to their beloved city and rebuild their lives?

The military does not want to give a deadline. Early on, defense and military officials thought the siege would be over in a week's time. When the terrorists battled government troops toe-to-toe amid air strikes and artillery fire by the latter, hopes were high that the Mautes would be gone by June 12, or Independence Day. That didn't happen, nor by Duterte's State of the Nation Address on July 24. It's already September, and with the Maute Group's military capabilities already severely degraded, it won't

be long for Marawi to be freed from their clutches.

The Mautes began the Marawi siege with an estimated 400 to 700 fighters, among them child warriors as young as 10 to 12 years old. The military now claims that more than 600 Mautes have been killed in the fighting, with the military suffering less than 200 casualties.

The Marawi siege would be a big military setback for the Mautes. But even as Marawi is retaken by government troops, that will not necessarily mean the end for the terrorists. The terrorist threat is likely to remain—and even worsen—as the remnants of the Mautes, backed up by the two factions of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu, the 3,000-strong Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and smaller other groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, could stage coordinated attacks in other cities in Muslim Mindanao with their newfound political clout.

What complicates the situation is the presence of foreign jihadists, especially from Indonesia and Malaysia. It will be recalled that when the Marawi siege started, among the casualties on the Maute side were Indonesian and Malaysian nationals, with one even from faraway Chechnya in Europe.

In other words, even if the government hoists the Philippine flag in Marawi soon and begins honest-to-goodness reconstruction work funded by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, it could be

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a pyrrhic victory, as the coalition of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-influenced terror groups could stage Marawi-style attacks elsewhere in Mindanao, perhaps even in Davao City, in the months or years to come.

Sidney Jones of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict and a keen observer of the terrorist threat in this part of the world, has written an excellent article, "Has Marawi killed the Philippines peace process?" that takes a close look at the dynamics of the situation in Muslim Mindanao.

Jones says that with the Bangsamoro Basic Law apparently not a priority of the Duterte administration with its single-minded focus on the war on drugs that has led to thousands of deaths and allegations of human-rights violations, the Mautes, even with their debacle in Marawi, could inspire other groups in Muslim Mindanao to take up arms in support of their goal of establishing a caliphate in southern Philippines.

That's not all. With the peace process with the communist-led National Democratic Front now in tatters and the New People's Army actively recruiting new blood even as their geriatric leaders are engaged in back-channel talks to get the peace process back on track, the Duterte administration could face a two-headed hydra—the ISIS-influenced terrorists in Muslim Mindanao and the communist rebels in the three major islands, until 2022.

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The Reform the Armed Forces Movement



Cecilio T. Arillo
DATABASE

Part Five

The beginning of the people power

THE crowd around the camp increased by the hour but, at dusk, their number had dwindled to less than 3,000. Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) spotters were worried. They warned that unless something was done about the thinning crowd, the camp would become vulnerable to attack.

"It was the beginning of people power," observed Emil Ong, a businessman and Aquino supporter. Ong was in his house when he heard Cardinal Sin's appeal to the people over the radio to support Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel V. Ramos and to bring food to the camp. Ong was among the first to respond. He and a friend, Jose Balite, brought six boxes of canned goods for the rebels.

The seven officers devised a new plan to recall people power to Edsa. This writer, who was present during the strategy meetings, suggested the use of media, particularly radio and television.

A quick look at the media structure in Metro Manila and the rest of the country convinced the officers that the plan would work. There were 244 newspapers in the country, 33 of which were based in Metro Manila, including seven big national dailies. There were 185 weekly publications, including 46 comics magazines, circulated mostly in Metro Manila.

Electronic media accounted for 286 radio stations, of which 46 were broadcasting from Metro Manila. There were 26 television stations

throughout the country, five of them in the metropolis. The Manila networks had 10 relay stations nationwide. The government-owned Voice of the Philippines and the Maharlika Broadcasting System operated 22 radio stations and five TV stations nationwide, respectively.

The newsman reminded the planners that Enrile and Ramos had the capability to preempt the use of these vast media outlets as a psychological propaganda weapon. Preemptive action would necessarily deny Malacañang maximum access to media, and Ferdinand E. Marcos would lose the propaganda war.

Enrile lost no time when he was informed of the plan. He ordered his public information assistants, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Ermita, lawyer Jose Flores Jr., Silvestre Afable and Col. Luis San Andres, General Ramos's spokesman, to get in touch quietly with their friends in media.

At 6 a.m. (Day Two), Enrile was told the bad news: Radio Veritas had been destroyed. He was worried. His face, however, broke into a wide grin when he was informed that large segments of the print and broadcast media had been disseminating to the

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nation and to the world their gallant stand at Camp Crame.

Thus, through the power of mass media, Enrile and Ramos were able to galvanize People Power and rally it back to Edsa. But, more important, from the tactical military point of view, they were able, through the mass media, to reach out to the ordinary soldiers, they who had their fingers on the trigger, to confirm to them in that precise moment of crisis what they had been saying all along that their president and commander in chief had lost the legal and moral right to lead them and the nation.

Also because of the media, RAM members in the regional and provincial commands were able to react instantly to the crisis. The time gained from the rapid flow of information made possible the timely activation of previously prepared scenarios designed to prevent loyalist reinforcements from moving to Manila.

At the RUC 10 Headquarters in Cagayan de Oro, nine RAM officers led by Lt. Col. Tibursio Fusilero and Lt. Col. Art Lumibao staged their own

Through the power of mass media, Enrile and Ramos were able to galvanize People Power. But, more important, they were able, through the mass media, to reach out to the ordinary soldiers, to confirm to them in that precise moment of crisis what they had been saying all along that their president and commander in chief had lost the legal and moral right to lead them and the nation.

silent and bloodless mutiny on Day Two, which paralyzed the whole command and prevented it from sending troops to Manila.

At Regional Unified Commands (RUC) 7, the Heavy Airlift Command in Cebu City, which had the planes to transport loyalist forces to Manila,

was immobilized as early as before midnight of Saturday, through the clandestine work of two RAM officers, Lt. Col. Joseph Ramos and Lt. Col. Neon Ebuena. Ground Forces identified with Marcos and Fabian C. Ver in Bohol, and adjacent provinces in the RUC area were similarly frozen through the underground work of RAM officers Lt. Col. Jose G. Ayap, 2nd Lt. Augusto M. Marquez and 2nd Lt. Eduardo S. Ebon.

At RUC 1, Brig. Gen. Tomas Dumpit, a rabid Ver loyalist, was helpless. His deputy, Col. Manuel Lopez, announced on Day Two that he had defected to the Enrile-Ramos camp. Others followed: Maj. Jun Jimenez, Dumpit's Air Force component commander, Lt. Col. Flor Fianza, Ramos's former aide who was on Dumpit's staff; Capt. Bong Ibrado, Ramos's intelligence officer in the region, Lt. Col. Marciano Ilagan, Camp John Hay base commander; and Lt. Benjie Magalang, commander of the 191st Ranger Company.

On that day, too, the entire Philippine Military Academy cadet corps of 770 men switched loyalty to Enrile and Ramos through the efforts of Honasan's classmate, Lt. Col. Nelson Eslao, deputy commandant of the Academy. However, the defection was not announced until Day Three at 1:45 a.m. when all the cadets were armed and ready to move to Camp Crame. Thirty minutes later, the entire cadet corps of the National Police Academy had armed themselves and announced their defection to Enrile and Ramos.

Because of the confusion on Day One, many RAM officers were unable to report to their respective units. On Day Two, 46 RAM officers reported to Camp Crame, where they helped run the Enrile-Ramos War Room. Among them: Army Col. Ismael Villareal, PC Capt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, PC Capt. Rosendo Ferrer, PC Maj. Waler Besas, PC Maj. Servando Hizon, PC Maj. Doroteo Reyes, PC Maj. Samuel Bagasin, Army Maj. Alex Dimabuyo, Army Maj. Delfin Lorenzana, Army Maj. Fernando Patawaran, Cmdr.

Matthew Mayuga, Cmar. EPNRAM Rio, Marine Maj. Emmanuel Teodosio, Air Force Capt. Raul Gonzales, Air Force Capt. Merito Quijano, Air Force Capt. Rene Baddilla, Air Force Capt. Rodolfo Petican and Air Force Capt. Meynardo Santiago.

To be continued

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ONLINE NEWS

05 SEPTEMBER 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP mum on alleged death of terror chief Abdullah Maute

By Priam Nepomuceno September 4, 2017, 5:18 pm

MANILA -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Monday said it cannot positively comment with certainty on the alleged death of terrorist leader Abdullah Maute until it has recovered the former's body or physical evidence showing conclusively that the latter has been neutralized or killed in the ongoing clearing operations.

And in the event that the body has been badly damaged or corrupted, this includes DNA sampling, said AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Until these requirements are satisfied, Arevalo said, the AFP cannot "100 percent" claimed that the terror chief is killed or neutralized.

"We are continuously taking in information to validate this (Abdullah's reported death)," Arevalo said, adding that they have no exact information on the time and date of the terror chief's reported death.

Abdullah is one of the founders of the Maute Group terrorists who ran amuck in Marawi City last May 23 after a botched attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and his cohorts.

Another founder is brother Omar whom the AFP public affairs office chief said is still cornered in the main battle area in Marawi City along with Hapilon.

Arevalo issued this statement after confidential sources claimed that Abdullah was killed in one of the air strikes launched against the terror group.

As of this posting, Maute Group members killed in the ongoing clearing operations are placed at 639 along with 145 government troops. Civilians executed are still at 45 while rescued captives are placed at 1,728 along with 672 weapons seized. (PNA)

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DND: NoKor H-bomb test to increase tension in Korean Peninsula

By Priam Nepomuceno September 4, 2017, 5:12 pm

MANILA -- North Korea's hydrogen bomb test on Sunday greatly increases the tension in the Korean peninsula aside from adversely affecting the peace and security of Asia, Department of National Defense (DND) public affairs office chief Arsenio Andolong said in a statement Monday.

"The DND is greatly concerned with the latest hydrogen bomb test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)," he said.

Andolong stressed that proliferation of this weapon increases the tension not only in the Korean peninsula but also adversely affects the peace and security of the whole of Asia as well.

"Experts say that the hydrogen bomb test may not directly affect the country. However, the DND will continue to monitor the situation, and the Office of Civil Defense is on alert following our standard operating procedures," he said. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP hails Recto proposal to hike benefits for wounded troops

By Priam Nepomuceno September 4, 2017, 4:58 pm

MANILA -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) lauded the proposal of Senator Ralph Recto calling for the increase of financial benefits to troopers severely wounded-in-action or in the battlefield.

"(That is) a very noble initiative that would be of great help to our wounded soldiers specially those who were seriously wounded," said AFP chief-of-staff Eduardo Ano on Sunday.

Recto proposed that PHP1 million be given in financial assistance to soldiers physically incapacitated in the line-of-duty, a far cry from the PHP250,000 now being given.

"Some of our men may not be able to walk while some would be blind for the rest of their lives. Recuperation from their wounds will longer time and costly hence the proposed increase would go a long way and prepare our soldiers well enough until they return back to normal duty," the AFP chief noted.

Ano said this is also a better way to appreciate troops wounded serving the country and its people. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

Marawi prelate asking for prayers for safe release of hostages

By Ferdinand Patinio September 4, 2017, 3:55 pm

MANILA – Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña is asking for prayers for the safe release of the hostages and to end the conflict in Marawi City which has been ongoing for more than three months.

"Let us continue praying. Let us pray that this crisis will already end without sacrificing more lives," he said in an article posted on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) news website.

Some 30 hostages, including Catholic priest Fr. Chito Suganob, are believed to be held by the terrorists.

At the same time, the Catholic bishop also urged the government to prioritize the safety of hostages that are still being held by the Maute group, noting "collateral damage" in war is not acceptable in all circumstances.

"If they do the final assault, the lives of the hostages could just be sacrificed and be considered as collateral damage... that is not acceptable. To me, they are not a collateral damage," he said.

Earlier, Dela Peña launched "Duyog Marawi", a campaign of the Marawi prelature in partnership with some religious and non-government organizations in rebuilding the war-torn city.

"These processes have to begin now before the reconstruction begins and before people will go back to the city," he said. *(PNA)*

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Dwdd.com.ph

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | WIA Marawi soldiers get private sector airlift support



WIA Marawi soldiers returning for combat duty get private sector airlift support.

The Philippine Army has accepted the free airlift support offered by Cebu Pacific Air for all military and police personnel wounded in action (WIA) in clashes in Marawi City. The soldiers comprise the first batch of wounded troops to be flown via commercial flights back to their respective units before returning to full active duty status.

Eleven WIA soldiers were flown from Manila via four separate Cebu Pacific flights on Monday, September 4, 2017. The soldiers were released from confinement at the Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. *"It is with deep gratitude that we accept this kind of gesture of support for our soldiers who are now returning to their respective units for combat. It is a meaningful gesture to make your soldiers feel that their sacrifices are being recognized and appreciated,"* said LTC Ray Tiongson, Army Chief Public Affairs.

WIA government troops who are fit enough for commercial flights can be accommodated on Cebu Pacific flights from Cagayan de Oro (Laguindingan Airport) or Manila, and flown to any of the 37 domestic destinations of CEB. On top of the free flights, the WIA soldiers were provided with a 40 kilogram baggage allowance each. Cebu Pacific has also been granting free 40 kilogram baggage allowance to all soldiers and troops of the Philippine National Police (PNP) who are being deployed to Mindanao, or flying within Mindanao, provided they can show valid Mission Orders and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or PNP Identification Cards.

"Support for the soldiers from the private sector continues to arrive where as of last month, more than 15 tons of goods in various items have been donated through the Army's Civil Military Operations Regiment," added Tiongson. Last August 27, the Philippine Army turned over Financial Assistance checks to the families of the 68 fallen soldiers who fought for Marawi City amounting to Php1 Million each. The said Financial Assistance was donated to the Armed Forces of the Philippines by a number of philanthropists who wished to remain anonymous. **OACPA / MCAG**

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Wounded soldiers from Marawi receives blessings

– A special day to serve those who serve our nation. They leave behind family, forgetting self and foregoing comfort as they do so. But when they get hurt, who will care for them?

We have mostly dealt with evacuees, especially women and children as well as some assistance to the troops serving alongside us and battling in the front lines.

Soldiers, some as young 18 years old, were brought here because of injuries from snipers' fire, IED explosions, and shrapnel from RPG.

But Sept. 2, an opportunity to minister to the wounded soldiers opened up. Upon the invitation of the Naval Special Operations Group (NavSog) Commander, we mobilized like-minded groups to help us bless the wounded Philippine Navy Marines in Camp Evangelista, CDO:

1. Ching Lluch of Happy Tent
2. Attie Gaurano of Community Bible Church CDO

The ladies of the NavSog and members of the CMOU-Western Mindanao helped coordinate our entry as well as facilitate distribution.

Part of the program were songs sung by CBC CDO as well as prayers and sharing time by the pastor.

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To have visitors come in helps ease the pain of being away from family as they heal from their wounds. The food (Jollibee chicken joy, pizza, fruits, and donuts) prepared was overflowing such that wounded Philippine Army soldiers inside were also given food. A miracle, indeed.

We came to bless but everyone left feeling blessed as well. We will have more of these engagements. Should you like to help, send us a message here. **NPAO / MCAG**



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