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NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 September 2017

Wednesday

NEWS HEADLINES

06 SEPTEMBER 2017



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SANDIGAN ORDERS TRIAL OF BINAYS TO PROCEED

STORY BY VINCE F. NONATO

Former Vice President Jejomar Binay, his son and 17 others are charged with committing irregularities in the construction of the Makati City Hall car park building when he was the mayor.

FROM A1

By Vince F. Nonato @VinceNonatoINQ

The Sandiganbayan has found sufficient basis to proceed with the trial of former Vice President Jejomar Binay over alleged irregularities in the first three phases of construction of the Makati City Hall car park building when he was the mayor.

In a resolution dated Aug. 31, the antigraft court's Third Division also issued a finding of probable cause against his son, then Councilor and later Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay Jr., as well as 17 other city officials and two private persons.

The court affirmed the sufficiency of the Ombudsman's indictment and found that "more likely than not," the crimes of malversation, falsification of public documents and violation of Section 3(e) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were committed.

"There is probable cause to issue warrants of arrest against all the accused and to hold them for trial," the court ruled.

Arraignment

But, since most of the accused, including the Binays, have posted bail, the court no longer saw the need to issue warrants of arrest. Instead, the accused would be arraigned on the morning of Sept. 29.

Daniel Subido, legal counsel of the Binay camp, said the court resolution meant that the case would go to trial in which the prosecution must present evidence.

"We anticipate that prosecution's so-called evidence would be weak and insufficient. Thus, the case will eventually be dismissed," Subido said.

Prosecutors said the Binays and their coaccused manipulated the bidding for the contracts



Former Vice President Jejomar Binay and his son, former Makati Mayor Junjun Binay. — INQUIRER РНОТО

in favor of Mana Architecture and Interior Design Co. and Hilmarc's Construction Corp.

The construction contracts awarded to Hilmarc's cost P1.486 billion (broken down into P387 million, P499.36 million and P599.4 million for the first three phases), while the architectural design and engineering services contract awarded to Mana amounted to P11.01 million.

The court affirmed the regularity of the Ombudsman's investigation even if it was done without "adverse findings" by the Commission on Audit (COA)

Bid invitations

"A finding of probable cause does not derive its veracity from the findings of COA, but from the independent determination of the Ombudsman," read the resolution penned by Associate Justice Sarah Jane T. Fernandez.

The court said the Ombudsman sufficiently showed the questionable publication of bid invitations for the Makati City Hall car park building, which also cast doubt on whether a public bidding was really held as claimed by the bids and awards committee. Yet, Hilmarc's received the payments despite the apparent irregularities.

The payment to Mana was questioned because of procurement violations and the firm's alleged failure to deliver the approved plans and specifications under the contract.

The court said "it would appear" that Mana was "preselected" and Binay Sr. was "privy to the plan to ensure the award of the contract," citing the sworn statement of the former general services division head, Mario Hechanova.

Prosecutors also amply showed documents to support the allegation that the payments were released despite Mana's failure to deliver on its obligations.

The accused invoked good faith and the presumption of regularity in the performance of their duties. They also said that their tasks were passive, supportive and clerical in nature.

But the court said those arguments were "matters of defense which are best threshed out during the trial of the case."

The Binays' coaccused include City Administrator Marjorie de Veyra, city legal officer Pio Kenneth Dasal, city budget officer Lorenza Amores, city engineer Mario Badillo, city accountants Cecilio Lim III and Leonila Querijero, acting city accountant Raydes Pestaño, city treasurer Nelia Barlis, central planning management office (CPMO) chiefs Virginia Hernandez and Line dela Peña, CPMO engineer Arnel Cadangan, CPMO project inspector Emerito Magat and general services division computer operator Norman Flores.

As for the bids and awards committee, the following members were charged: vice chair Ulysses Orienza, secretary Giovanni Condes, secretariat head Manolito Uyaco and technical working group head Rodel Nayve.

The accused private individuals were Mana senior partner Orlando Mateo and Hilmarc's chair Efren Canlas.

Immunity lost

The cases regarding the first three phases of the City Hall car park building's construction was the second batch of charges filed by the Ombudsman

These were brought to the Sandiganbayan only on July 14, 2016, after Binay Sr. lost his immunity from suit upon the end of his vice presidency.

The charges concerning Phases IV and V of construction, which cost P790.73 million and implemented under the mayoralty of Binay Jr., were earlier filed on Feb 19, 2016, since the father still had his immunity.

The Sandiganbayan Third Division on April 18 this year found probable cause to proceed with the trial regarding this set of cases.

Science High building

On Aug. 1, the Ombudsman found probable cause to indict the Binays for new graft and falsification cases in connection with alleged procurement anomalies over the P1.3-billion Makati Science High School building. The cases have yet to be brought by prosecutors to the Sandiganbayan.

The alleged procurement anomalies hounding Makati's public infrastructure projects came to the fore during a long-running inquiry by the Senate blue ribbon subcommittee as Binay Sr. prepared for his presidential candidacy. He placed fourth out of five candidates in the May 2016 elections. INQ

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Carl fired shot, killed while lying down - PNP

By PAOLO ROMERO

He fired a gun at policemen who fired back, hitting him five times as he lay on the ground, police said yesterday, referring to autopsy results on 19-year-old Carl Angelo Arnaiz.

The university student was killed allegedly while resisting arrest after robbing a taxi driver last month.

National Capital Regional Police Office chief Director Oscar Albayalde told senators Arnaiz tested positive for gunpowder residue in his hands, indicating he had fired a gun

Albayalde bared the autopsy findings at the resumption of the inquiry of the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs into recent drug-related killings.

Relatives of Arnaiz, however, disputed the paraffin test results.

At his funeral yesterday, Arnaiz's grandmother Norma Magat said he never touched guns except perhaps toy guns. Arnaiz's former classmates

Turn to Page 6

Carl From Page 1

at the University of the Philippines in Diliman staged a protest rally against extrajudicial killings.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Scene Of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) performed the test on Arnaiz shortly after he was gunned down in Caloocan City by police officers before dawn last Aug. 18.

Reportedly found in his possession was a .38 caliber revolver he reportedly used to rob a taxi driver and fight it out with law enforcers.

Arnaiz reportedly left his exit wounds home on Aug. 17 purportedly "It's possi

to have a snack outside but did not return home.

His parents were able to locate his body at a morgue 10 days later.

Dr. Jocelyn Cruz, head of the Northern Police District (NPD) Crime Laboratory, testified that she conducted an autopsy on Arnaiz's body 10 days after it was embalmed in a morgue

She said she found five gunshot wounds in the chest area, with the trajectory of the bullet going "upward" based on the

"It's possible the assailant

was in a standing position and the victim was in a lower position compared to the assailant," Cruz said.

She said Amaiz was likely in a "supine or kneeling posi-don" when shot.

Cruz said she also found abrasions and contusions on the victim's right eye and on his back that may have been caused by "friction to a rough surface"

Slight contusions on the victim's wrists may have been due to "force in the area," she added

When asked by Sen. Grace Poe, vice chair of the committee, if she thinks Arnaiz fought back, Cruz said: "With a possibility he fought back"

and that "based on the body of the victim, there were multiple gunshot wounds and there were other injuries noted. It means that the victim wasn't able to fight back easily."

The NPD's forensic findings appeared to match the findings of Dr Erwin Erfe of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) that Arnaiz could have been executed. Erfe surmised Arnaiz was kneeling when shot.

"It looks like the victim was handcuffed .. there are marks of handcuff and the victim was mugged," Erfe told the committee, chaired by Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Poe and other senators the victim being tall, there is moved to summon the taxi moved to invite Bagcal to the driver, identified as Tomas next hearing, as his narrative

Magleo Bagcal, who reportedly identified Arnaiz as the one who poked a gun at him and divested him of his wallet.

PAO chief Persida Acosta said Bagcalissued an affidavit on Aug. 18 and a supplemental affidavit on Aug. 29 in which he pointed to Arnaiz as the one who robbed him at gunpoint.

Acosta, however, noted some important details were not in his affidavits, like the plate number of his cab.

She also said when the PAO investigators verified Bagcal's address indicated in his statement, neighbors said he did not live there.

Poe and Sen Joel Villanueva

appeared to be doubtful.

Poe said there could be questions on his bona fides as Bagcal was referred to Caloocan City police investigators by PO1 Jeffrey Perez and PO1 Ricky Arquilita, who were believed to have shot the victim.

Poe also called on the PNP to exert all efforts to locate 14-year-old Reynaldo de Guzman who was last seen with Arnaiz

De Guzman's mother, Linda Gabriel, believes her son is still alive but kept against his will. She said Arnaiz and De Guzman left together from their homes in Cainta, Rizal to have snacks with some neighbors last Aug. 17. That was the last time she saw her son.

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The Manila Times

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'No Maute terrorists found in Buldon'

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: The Buldon police in Maguindanao launched a massive search for Islamic militants at the town border and Mount Cararao in Lanao del Sur for almost 24 hours but found none

Earlier in Davao City, President Rodrigo Duterte announced the possible spread of the conflict in Marawi City to the rest of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) particularly in Buldon.

The ethnic Iranun who are the majority of the inhabitants of Buldon including the police and military were surprised with the President's announcement on Saturday.

Buldon, a hinterland town in the first district of Maguindanao, with its mayor Abolais Manalao went to the extent of urging the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team and the joint ceasefire committee of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to help them prove there is not even a single Maute terrorist in their municipality.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu vouched for the leadership of Manalao, saying he is in full control of the entire municipality of Buldon. The governor said he has even tapped the Islamic religious sector in Buldon to help prove to the President that there are no Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists in the area.

"We respect and we do not begrudge President Duterte for having announced there are sightings of militants in Buldon. We take that pronouncement as a reminder for us to help him address terrorism and violent religious extremism in Mindanao," he added

The Army's 6th Infantry Division announced on Saturday over radio stations in Cotabato City that there is no confirmed presence of any group in Buldon operating in the style of IS.

Major Gen. Amel de la Vega, the Army's 6th Infantry Division commander, said the 37th Infantry Battalion, which covers all barangay (villages) in Buldon, has not reported anything about sightings of terrorists in the municipality.

Even members of Buldon municipal peace and order council said it is impossible for them not to detect the presence of any threat group now that all rido or clan wars involving Iranun families have been settled amicably.

Chief Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, director of the Police Regional Office (PRO)-ARMM, said all clans who have been engaged in rido are now cooperating in maintaining law and order in the municipality

Similarly, the local MILF commanders said there could be Maute gunmen on high ground at Mount Cararao, but none in Buldon

Mount Cararao is closer to Butig town in Lanao del Sur where the Maute terror group first emerged in 2014.

Hundreds of Iranun villagers in Buldon, led by village chiefs, helped in Saturday's search by the local police for terrorists at the border but also found none.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao provincial police director, said Buldon police will conduct periodic searches to prevent incursion by Maute terrorists.

On December 8 last year, MILF rebels led by Commander Quiqada killed five Maute gunmen and wounded more than a dozen others for trying to bring into Buldon militants wounded in a gunfight with pursuing soldiers in Butig.

Butig, located in the first district of Lanao del Sur, is hometown of the siblings Omar and Abdullah Maute, founders of the Maute terror group.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL



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MARILLE BULLETU

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No ISIS-inspired group in Buldon

By VALERYA LAMBO

OTABATO CITY – The military here confirmed there is no ISIS-inspired militant group in the border of Buldon town and Mount Cararao in Lanao del Sur despite reports of about 100 men spotted in the hinterlands in the town of Buldon recently.

This, after President Rodrigo Roa Duterte said Friday that there was a reported spillover of the armed conflict from strife-torn Marawi City, Lanao del Sur to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

Col. Jesus Sarsagat, 603rd Brigade commander, disclosed that there have been no reported sightings of any ISIS- inspired militant group even as troops have continued monitoring the area.

"As far as the center of Buldon area, we have not found any members and even recruitment. But there are isolated areas and barangays in Buldon we cannot cover although we have informants in these areas," Sarsagat said.

This was the same disclosure made by Von Al Haq, speaking for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)

"There are a lot of speculations but there is no evidence to support these claims," Al Haq said.

MILF forces stationed in Buldon are already on high alert, along with the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion

"There is no truth that there are armed men linked with ISIS in the

area. I was misquoted by some reports. Authorities have not seen 100 alleged ISIS-inspired members," Al Haq said.

Buldon, a hinterland town in the first district of Maguindanao, is bounded by Barira town and the Cararao complex going to Butig town in Lanao del Sur.

President Duterte said he has considered lifting martial law in Mindanao, but a possible spillover of the terror crisis convinced him otherwise.

"I was thinking that we could, you know, lift it earlier But the way it looks, parang may spillover na sa ARMM eh. Sa Buldon (It seems there's a spillover in Buldon in ARMM)," Duterte said.

Sarsagat said military troops are now conducting blocking operations along the boundaries of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

"We have blocking operations in the town of Balabagan, Kapatagan and Marugong to contain the recruitment of these ISIS-inspired militant group particulary the Abu Sayyaf Group coming from Zamboanga," he added.

The militrary said it was trying to validate reports of mayors that there were sightings of militant groups in five towns in Lanao del Sur.

"We are also looking for possible connections of Maute family in the town of Buldon and Barira," Sarsagat said

The local government of Buldon has already conducted a special municipal council meeting and Ulama forum aimed to counter and prevent extremism and terrorism in the area.

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8 BIFF men die in clash with MILF guerrillas

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO

- Eight members of the
Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were
killed in an encounter with
Moro Islamic Liberation
Front (MILF) guerrillas and
Army soldiers in Maguindanao on Monday.

One died and two others were wounded on the MILF side.

The fatalities from the BIFF were identified only as Mosib, Abdullah, Sendi, Bonah, Onting, Zaide, Akmad and Junaid. They were alleged followers of Esmael Abdulmalik, a former henchman of slain Malaysian bomb maker Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan

Col. Diosdado Carreon, 601st Infantry Brigade commander, said the clash, which lasted for about two hours, occurred at the border of Barangays Tee and Andavit in Salibo town.

The MILF has been helping the military in running after the group of Abdulmalik since last month in line with the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro which they signed with the government on March 27, 2014

At least 16 MILF guerrillas were killed in recent clashes Abdulmalik lost 33 followers.

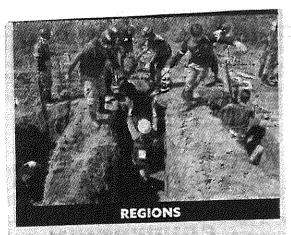
Government troops and the MILF are bound to cooperate in addressing peace and security problems in potential flashpoints where there are MILF forces under the Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities signed in 1997. They were also enjoined to help each other in neutralizing criminal gangs and terrorists.



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Marawi holds third mass burial

MARAWI CITY—A third batch of 27 unidentified bodies retrieved from the battle area here was buried in a Muslim cemetery on Tuesday. One was a man wearing a military uniform but had yet to be identified by authorities. According to a local official, records of forensic exams will help in identifying the bodies once DNA samples are matched with those of people with missing relatives.

—STORY BY RICHELY. UMEL

MARAWI CITY—At least 27 unidentified remains, including one wearing a military uniform, were buried at the Muslim cemetery here on Tuesday, more than three months after fighting broke out between government troops and Islamic State-inspired militants who occupied sections of this Lanao del Sur provincial capital

It was the third mass burial authorities conducted after the burial of 27 bodies here on July 24 and another 11 in Iligan City in June.

Danny Capin, owner of Capin Funeral Homes in Iligan City where the bodies were kept after they were retrieved from the war zone, told the Inquirer that the body of the man wearing a military uniform was initially thought to belong to a missing soldier of the Philippine Marine Corps.

But authorities had yet to verify if the body, retrieved from Barangay Rorog Agus here, belonged to the missing Marine, whose name they declined to disclose to reporters.

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for the Lanao del Sur Provincial Crisis Management Committee (PCMC), said the remains were processed by the Management of the Dead and



Unidentified bodies retrieved from the battle zone in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, are buried in Papandayan village's Maqbarah Muslim Public Cemetery.—RICHEL V. UMEL

Missing Cluster of the PCMC, in coordination with the police's scene of crime operations (Soco).

"The 27 unclaimed remains recovered during the early days of the fighting have already undergone postmortem examinations, conducted by experts," Adiong said.

These examinations will help in the eventual identification of the unclaimed remains once their DNA will be matched with samples from people who have missing family members, he added.

Saripada Pacasum Jr., chief of the Lanao del Sur Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO), said the remains were buried in individual tombs at Maqbarah cemetery in Barangay Papandayan here.

Adiong said the mass burial was part of the provincial government's effort to properly honor the dead.

"We make sure that these victims are given decent burial rites and appropriate individual space in accordance with religious and cultural sensitivities," he said.

While Muslims bury their dead before sunset, Adiong said the burial, which took place weeks after they died, was still in accordance with the Islamic practice because the existing circumstances, such as the difficulty in retrieving the

bodies, had been considered.

He said the bodies were also properly handled before burial

"We have the 'fatwa' issued by the religious sector to guide us and to facilitate the proper handling of these cadavers," he said "Before they are to be transported to Maqbarah, they are to be given the 'Salatul Ma'yet' or the Prayers for the Dead," he said.

Adiong said they consider the burial as temporary because families with missing relatives might later decide to exhume and bury their dead elsewhere.

"Maqbarah Public Cemetery is the identified temporary burial site in Barangay Papandayan being managed by the provincial government," he said.

Adiong appealed to those with missing kin to reach out to authorities so DNA samples could be collected from them for comparison with samples from those buried.

The exact number of missing persons in the main battle area in Marawi remained unclear as authorities had not completed collating data.

According to Pacasum, the PDRRMO is preparing for a large-scale retrieval of remains once the firefight in the main battle zone is over.

—RICHEL V. UMEL INQ

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Remains of 28 civilians, Maute men buried

BY VICTOR REYES

AUTHORITIES yesterday buried the remains of 22 civilians and six Maute Group members who were among those slain in the armed conflict in Marawi City that broke out last May 23.

The remains of the unidentified people were interred at the Makbarah Public Cemetery in Barangay Papandayan in Marawi City after postmortem examinations on them were completed.

Tong Pacasum, head of the retrieval team at the Lanao del Sur provincial disaster risk reduction and management office, said some of the fatalities had only skeletal remains left.

Pacasum said 27 other remains were interred at the same cemetery last month. He said seven recently-recovered cadavers are also due for burial, pending the conduct of similar procedures at a hospital.

Zia Alonto Adiong, a member of the regional assembly of ARRM representing the first district of Lanao del Sur and concurrent spokesman of the Provincial Crisis Management Committee, said the remains were retrieved during the early days of the fighting.

"We appeal to the public especially those who have relatives and kin that are still missing to approach the Provincial Crisis Management Committee or the Missing Persons Center in Iligan City and submit swab samples for the ante-mortem procedure," said Adiong.

Adiong said those who may have difficulty reaching the PCMC in the provincial capitol in Marawi City may coordinate with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The fighting has already resulted in the death of 639 Maute members, 145 soldiers, and policemen and 45 civilians.

On Monday, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the fighting would not last beyond his retirement on October 26. He said the operations are already in the final phase or finishing touches.

The United States government is providing P730 million in additional assistance for relief operations and rehabilitation of Marawi City.

US ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim

said P577 million of the assistance package, made through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), will be for "early recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation of Marawi and surrounding area."

The rest is in the form of humanitarian assistance or for the delivery of "critical relief supplies such as safe drinking water, hygiene kits, shelter materials for evacuation centers, and for programs to protect displaced women and children."

Kim said the P730 million assistance is on top of the earlier assistance provided by the USAID in Marawi, including 12,000 water containers and nearly 100,000 chlorine tablets to evacuees, and 6,500 desks for temporary schools and psycho-social support for teachers and students.

Also, Kim said the embassy's public affairs section will also be providing P22 million for educational and information programs "that bring together students and women leaders to explore innovative ways to address the challenges facing Marawi residents." – With Ashzel Hachero

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Pahina. $_$ $^{\mathcal{O}}$

Philippines (AFP) Chief lungsod. of Staff Eduardo Año sa mga natitirang terorisinilitar ang final push sa nagaganap na giyera sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Año, may opsyon naman ang mga terorista na sumuko na kanilang hanay ang gilamang kung nais ng mga yera sa Marawi City para ito na manatiling buhay.

na pursigido ang militar halaan, at ng mga sibilyna tapusin na ang giyera an (Betchai Julian)

Ito ang naging mensa- sa Marawi para masimuhe ni Armed Forces of the lan ang rekonstruksyon sa

Siniguro naman ni Año na hindi na aabutin ta habang ikinakasa ng ang giyera sa Marawi sa nakatakda niyang pagreretiro sa serbisyo sa buwan ng Okubre

Aminado rin si Año na naging leksyon sa palakasin pa ang ugnayan Binigyan-diin ni Año ng militar, lokal na pama-

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CEBUPAC AIRLIFT

11 WOUNDED SOLDIERS FLY FOR FREE

Cebu Pacific Air gave 11 soldiers who were wounded-inaction in the ongoing conflict in Marawi free trips back to their mother units.

The soldiers took on Monday Cebu Pacific flights from Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 to Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Pagadian and Cotabato cities where their mother units are based.

The wounded servicemen were earlier released from confinement at the Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, according to Lt. Col. Ray Tiongco, who accompanied the soldiers to their respective flights.

"The Philippine Army is thankful for 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," he said.

Cebu Pacific communications director Charo Logarta said wounded-in-action soldiers who had already recovered and were fit to travel could avail of the free flights at Naia or the Laguindingan Airport in Cagayan de Oro, that would take them to more than 30 domestic destinations.—JEROME ANING INQ

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P50 B needed for Marawi rehab — Lorenzana

At least P50 billion will be leeded to rehabilitate Marawi Tity, which will take three years o complete, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday

Appearing at the hearing of he Senate special committee in Marawi City rehabilitation, Lorenzana, who is also chairman of the Task Force Bangon Marawi, said the amount would cover the repair and construction of both private and government infrastructure

He said he would ask for a supplemental budget to start

rehabilitation work

Lorenzana said P20 billion would be enough for this year while the balance would be included in the national budget for next year

He said he expects the armed conflict to end within the month, noting that the Maute group has only one remaining leader—Isnilon Hapilon—and only a few militants are holed up in Marawi.

US donates \$14.3 M

Meanwhile, the US govern-

ment has committed \$14.3 million or about P730 million in emergency relief and recovery assistance for communities affected by the conflict in Marawi City and its surrounding areas

"The United States is deeply committed to this relationship and remains ready to support our friend and ally as we face the challenges and opportunities," US Ambassador Sung Kim said yesterday

Kim said P153 million would be coursed through the US Agency for International Development to fund critical relief supplies such as safe drinking water, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and shelter materials for evacuation centers as well as programs to protect displaced women and children.

The remaining P577 million will be earmarked to support recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation of Marawi and nearby areas

Marvin Sy, Pia Lee-Brago, Ding Cervantes, Cecille
 Suerte Felipe, Jaime Laude

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Ambassador Kim announces P730M relief, recovery assistance for Marawi

Ambassador to the mately P730 million Philippines Sung Kim (\$14.3 million) in Philippines Sung Kim yesterday announced that the U.S. govern-ment, through the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines' United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has

UNITED States (U.S.) committed approxiemergency relief and recovery assistance for communities affected by the ongoing conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur and its surrounding areas.

relationship and re-mains ready to support our friend and ally as we face the challenges and opportunities," Ambas-sador Kim said. "We all look forward to the end of the crisis, and the end of the fighting and suf-

"The United States is fering. We have been deeply committed to this and will continue to support the Philippine government's efforts to deal with the crisis."

The U.S. government will coordinate with the Philippine government and humanitarian organizations on the ground to deliver critical relief supplies such as safe drinking water, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, and shelter materials that will improve conditions in evacuation centers and other alternative housing. USAID will also provide 18 facilities in Marawi with critical supplies and services to address tuberculosis and maternal, newborn and child health needs.
In addition to this,

USAID will help bolster the early recovery of Marawi by restoring basic public services such as health care, water, and electricity. It will sup-port Marawi's longerterm stabilization and rehabilitation by jumpstarting livelihoods, promoting community dialogue, rebuilding resilient health systems, and offering skills training and psychosocial coun-seling for youth

Last July, the U.S. government provided



Ambassador Kim access to potable water by distributing 12,000 water containers and nearly 100,000 chlorine tablets to 12,000 families staying in evacuation sites in Lanao del

Norte, Lanao del Sur, and Iligan City.

The U.S. government has likewise committed to supply 6,500 tablet arm chairs, which will be distributed to schools in Mindanao where displaced Marawi students

are currently enrolled.
USAID supports peace and community development in Mindanao through 25 ongoing projects that improve local governance, strengthen the government's capacity to deliver services, especially in health and education, and promote civic engagement.

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US commits P730M for Marawi rehab

By Cristina Lee-Pisco

THE United States government is making available over P730 million (approximately \$15 million) for the ongoing relief operations, recovery and rehabilitation of Marawi City and the surrounding area, the U.S. Embassy in Manila said yesterday.

U.S. Embassy in Manila said yesterday.
U.S. Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim made the announcement as he reiterated the U.S. government's deep commitment to its partnership with the Philippines.

Kim offered his condolences for the loss of lives in the Marawi conflict, both military and civilian, and said they are looking forward to the end of the crisis and the end of the fighting and suffering.

He said the U.S. will continue to support the Philippine government's efforts to deal with the crisis. Of the total funds to be provided by the United States

Of the total funds to be provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), P153 million will be used for humanitarian assistance through USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

The amount will be utilized to deliver critical relief supplies such as safe drinking water, hygiene kits, shelter materials for evacuation centers, and for programs to protect displaced women and children.

Over P577 million will be allocated to support the

early recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation of Marawi and the surrounding area

The U.S. Embassy said the financial aid will focus on restoring basic public services, including health care, water, and electricity, jumpstarting livelihoods, and promoting community reconciliation and alternatives to violent extremism.

The amount is in addition to the assistance already provided by the USAID, including the 12,000 water containers and nearly 100,000 chlorine tablets, to help bring safe drinking water to families in evacuation centers as well as 6,500 desks for temporary schools and psycho-social support for affected feachers and students.

"Our Public Affairs Section will also be providing P22 million for educational and informational programs that bring together students and women leaders to explore innovative ways to address the challenges facing Marawi residents," Kim said.

"I should note that these efforts are just the latest

"I should note that these efforts are just the latest installment of the U.S. government's non-military assistance that totals P65 billion in the past six years. All of this work is done in close coordination with our colleagues in the Philippine government," the U.S. Ambassador said.

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No harassment of IP schools - AFP

By MALU CADELINA MANAR

KIDAPAWAN CITY - A top military official operating in Soccsksargen (Region 12) has confirmed reports that some of the schools for indigenous peoples (IP) were being used as "tools for propaganda" by the New Peoples' Army (NPA)

Col. Roberto Angcan, commander of the 1002nd Brigade of the Philippine Army, said these IP schools are located in remote villages in the region, especially in the hinterlands.

Angcan, however, refused to identify these schools.

He also denied allegations that the military had been harassing and threatening IP schools in the region.

They were also accused of bombing IP schools in Sultan Kudarat province

"That is a lie. We don't attack schools. We only run after armed men who belong to terror groups," Angcan said in an interview over Catholic-ran DXND.

He stressed that the military's involvement with such schools were limited by an order from the Department of Education (DepEd) that it check on schools that are accredited, registered, or licensed with the department.

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Kumpirmasyon ng DAR chief pinalagan ng militar

Hiniling ng matataas na opisyal ng militar kahapon na ibasura ang kumpirmasyon ni Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Rafael Vitriolo Mariano kasunod ng panununog at paninira ng 150 ektaryang sakahan at mga bodega sa isang plantasyon

ng saging at pinya sa Tagum City.

Ang resolusyon ng mga lider ng militar - sina
Department of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana at
Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Eduardo Año – ay ibinunyag ni Senate Majority Leader Vicente C Sotto III bilang chairman ng Agrarian Reform Committee ng makapangyarihang Commission on Appointments (CA).

Isa si Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte, anak ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, sa mga mayor na tutol sa kumpirmasyon ni Mariano at liunagda sa resolusyon. May apat pang gobernador ang lumagda rin, ayon kay Sotto

Nang tanungin ng mga mamamahayag kaugnay sa resolusyong ito matapos muling itakda ni Sotto ang pagdining para ngayong araw dahil sa paliwanag ng ilang indibidwal at grupo ba tumutol sa kanyang kumpirmasyon, sinabi ni Mariano na hindi niya nakita

ang petsa ng resolusyon nina Lorenzana at Año. Dumistansiya nn siya sa mga makakaliwang grupo na sumira sa ari-arian ng Lapandai Fruits Corporation. dating Global Fruits Corporation.

Inakusahan ng resolusyon si Mariano na may alam

sa panunog ng Lapandai property, anang Sotto. Sa pagdinig ng komite, sinabi ni Sotto na itinanggi ni Mariano ang intelligence report na sangkot siya sa pagpaplano ng panununog sa 546-ektaryang lupain ng Lapandai

Mario B. Casayuran

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HULICE FILES

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DALAWAMPU'T WALONG hindi nakilalang mga bangkay ang inilibing sa Maqbara Memorial-Park sa Lanao del Sur kahapon. Ang mga labi ay nakuha sa main battle area ng Marawi City. (Mula sa FB account ni Val Cuenca)

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FROM THE RUBBLE – Soldiers go on patrol amid heavily damaged buildings and houses in Marawi City, as government forces continued their assault against proislamic State (IS) militants. (Reuters)

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CHANGE OF COMMAND | PMC Welcomes 31st Commandant

eed in <u>Alvin Samiano</u>

BONIFACIO NAVAL STATION GRANDSTAND, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City (DWDD) – The Philippine Marine Corps held the traditional Change of Command Ceremony today, September 5, 2017 at the Bonifacio Naval Station Grandstand, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The ceremony was presided by the Flag Officer In Command, Philippine Navy, Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph S Mercado.

BGen Alvin A Parreño took the seat as the 31st Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps as he replaced MGen Emmanuel B Salamat who took the helm of the Northern Luzon Command. BGen Parreño is a member of PMA Class 1986 and the current Deputy Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps. He is a seasoned Marine Officer who began to lead marine rifle platoon during his junior officer days and grew up as a combat leader in Force Reconnaissance Battalion where he became Commander. He also commanded Marine Battalion Landing Team 3. He was promoted to Brigadier General while he was assigned as Commander, Naval Reserve Command prior to his assignment as Commander, 1st Marine Brigade in 2016. He held various key positions which honed him to be one of the finest generals of his time. He has proven his leadership skills and prowess in fighting separatist and terrorist groups in Mindanao. He received numerous medals and various commendations for his gallantry and dedication to service. The ceremony was highlighted by the symbolic passing of standards and testimonial review and retreat. MCAG

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CALL FOR JUSTICE | PA Condemns NPA for Murdering a Tribal Chieftain

Property by Atvin Santiago

CAMP EDILBERTO EVANGELISTA, Cagayan de Oro City (DWDD) – The 4th Infantry Division joins all Tribal Communities and the peace-loving people in condemning the NPA for killing Datu Rostico Sandag Porogoy, Tribal Chieftain of Santiago, Agusan del Norte at around 7:40 this morning, September 5, 2017.

According to the Police report, Datu Porogoy was on his way, onboard his XRM motorcycle, to visit his people in Pangaylan (a manobo community in Santiago) when three NPA gunmen, who are riding a motorcycle and armed with cal .45, shot him twice at his back and one on his right shoulder that caused his instantaneous death.

Ltc Glen Aynera. Commanding Officer of 29th Infantry Battalion said, "We decry the terroristic act and brutality of the NPA bandits. The killing of Datu Porogoy is a blatant execution. This is another Lumad killing purposely to sow threat and violence among the peace-loving Lumads and to the Filipino people as a whole."

Datu Porogoy is the representative of CADT 134. He is a staunch peace advocate in Caraga region. He strongly denounce NPA atrocities and leads his tribe in supporting government programs for peace and development.

"The attack on Datu Porogoy is a clear and undeniable proof of the NPA's human rights atrocities in Lumad communities. This is also a solid proof of the NPA's continuing campaign to take control of our Lumads and anyone who gets in their way is killed in the process." Ltc Aynera stressed.

MGen Ronald Villanueva, 4ID Commander is urging the Filipino Nation to join in shout for justice and urge the KARAPATAN and other organizations who are calling for the end of Lumad killings to similarly condemn this dastardly act and denounce the NPA's human rights violations.

"Let not Datu Porogoy's death be the end of his advocacy for his people, but rather an inspiration to others to pursue peace and development." "We sympathize with his family, relatives, friends, love ones, and constituents. The AFP will intensify operations to go after the perpetrators of this cowardly attack and at the same time ensure that Lumad tribesmen loyal to Datu Porogoy will not conduct revenge killings as the attack could trigger a new wave of violence among Lumad factions. This is unfortunate because the AFP, PNP and our LGUs have been working hard to de-escalate the situation." MGen Villanueva added. 4DPAO / MCAG

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DEPENDABLE | 8IB Soldiers donates blood for Peace

Francis - Alvin Santiago

IMPASUGONG, Bukidnon (DWDD) – The 8th Infantry "Dependable" Battalion participated in the Simultaneous Nationwide Bloodletting Activity at its headquarters in Impasugong, Bukidnon last 02 September 2017. This activity was done in connection with the Peace Consciousness Month with the theme "Dugo Para sa Kapayapaan."

Even with the unit's busy schedule, the DEPENDABLE TROOPERS still managed to give time and participated this activity. The activity would not be possible without the help of the Philippine Red Cross. Volunteers headed by Quezza Gay T. Tagarda, Philippine Red Cross Quality Assurance Officer, and Dr. Neptune S. Jaramillo, Municipal Health Officer of LGU-Sumilac, aided the activity.

Many of us have bled and died in battles to secure the land and safeguard the people in times of chaos. Soldiers from the different parts of the country have been doing this throughout the ages. If our sacrifices would bring the whole nation closer to achieving this peace, we are ready to do so at any given time or place. 8IB CMO / MCAG

