

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



**TEAM ARMY**  
Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

07 September 2017

Thursday

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

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 07 SEPTEMBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.9
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>			
2-3	30 stab wounds for Car's teen pal	Emmanuel Tupas	Phil. Star p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
4	NPA behind slay of tribal leader- Army	Mike U. Crismundo	Manila Bulletin
5	Group links killing of lumad student to logging, mining	Alladin S. Diega	Business Mirror
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
6-8	Classes resume in 12 public schools in Marawi City	Francis T. Wakefield	Manila Bulletin
9	Classes resume in Marawi public schools	John Unson	The Philippine STAR
10	Marawi returning to normalcy: AFP	Victor Reyes	Malaya
11-12	Troops back MILF rebs fighting pro-IS group	AFP	Philippine Daily Inquirer
13	Gov't troops join forces with MILF in Fighting IS-inspired BIFF	Francis T. Wakefield	Manila Bulletin
14	Soldiers back Muslim rebels fighting IS	AFP	The Manila Times
15	Death of 9 wounded soldiers hike Marawi toll to 145	Jeffrey Maitem	Philippine Daily Inquirer
16	Bloodletting for Marawi Troops	Danny J. Estacio	Manila Bulletin
17	China nag-donate ng P5M para sa Marawi soldiers	Joy Cantos	Ngayon
18	China Turns over P5-M check for Marawi soldiers	Rene Acosta	Business Mirror
19	Airstrike kill 10 BIFF fighters	Francis T. Wakefield	Tempo
20	Ten BIFF combatants killed in Maguindanao	Rene Acosta	Business Mirror
21-22	Military mum on arrest of Nur Misuari	Dempsey Reyes	The Manila Times
23-24	Arrest warrant for Misuari out	Peter Tabingo	Malaya
25	China proposes joint counter terror drills with Phi	Michael Punongbayan	The Philippine Star
26	Defense department to acquire 'Sidewinder' air-to-air missiles	PNA	The Daily Tribune

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

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


27	China planted flag on PH isle \, Magdalo says	Maricel V. Cruz	Manila Standard
28	Thousands displaced in N. Vizcaya AFP-NPA clashes	Victor Martin	The Philippine Star
<b>EDITORIAL</b>			
29	Who is winning the war in Marawi?	Macabangkit B. Lanto	Philippine Daily Inquirer
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
30	China proposes intel sharing, counter-terror training with AFP	Priam Nepomuceno	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
31	No efforts to be spared in tracking down Hapilon: AFP	Priam Nepomuceno	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
32	China donates P5M to troopers engaged in Marawi fighting	Priam Nepomuceno	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
33	DND acquires 'sidewinder' air-to-air missiles	Priam Nepomuceno	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
34	SUPPORT OUR TROOPS/ AFP appreciates China's donation for Marawi Soldiers	PAOAFP/MCAG	<a href="http://www.dwdd.com">www.dwdd.com</a>
35	NEUTRALIZED / 10 BIFF members killed in airstrikes in Maguindanao	WESMINCOM / MCAG	<a href="http://www.dwdd.com">www.dwdd.com</a>

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


07 September 2017



Page:   A9  



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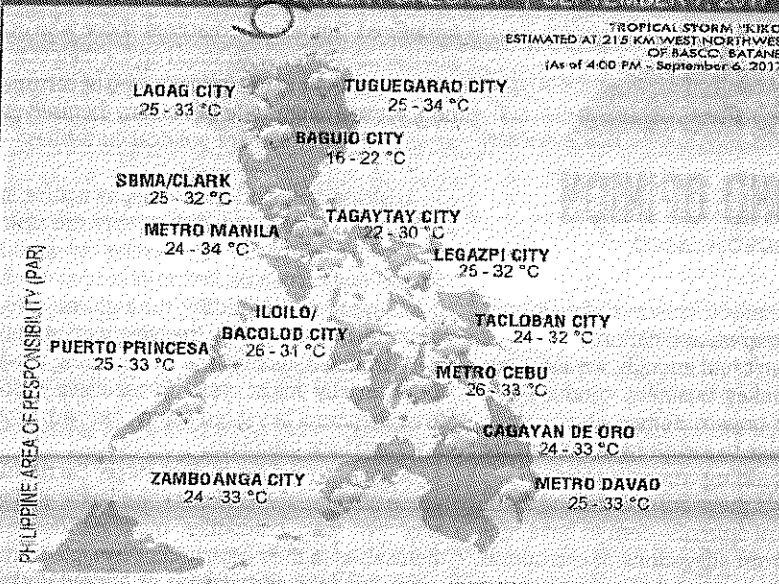


**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 THURSDAY**

TROPICAL STORM "KIKO"  
ESTIMATED AT 215 KM WEST-NORTHWEST  
OF BASCO, BATANES  
(As of 4:00 PM - September 6, 2017)






PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:44 AM	6:04 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
6:56 PM	6:21 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b>	<b>LAST QUARTER</b>
SEP 8 7:03 PM	SEP 18 2:28 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
5:46 PM	10:37 AM
0.21 Meter	1.12 Meter


Partly cloudy to a times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms  
Droplet clouds with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

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	SEP 7	SEP 8	SEP 9	SEP 10	SEP 11	SEP 12
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	34 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 31 °C	23 - 30 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25 - 34 °C	25 - 35 °C	24 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	16 - 23 °C	16 - 24 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	24 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	 	



**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11 AM & 5 PM**



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

07 September 2017



Page: 1

# 30 stab wounds for Carl's teen pal

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

The 14-year-old boy last seen with Carl Angelo Arnaiz was found dead on Tuesday, floating in a creek in Gapan, Nueva Ecija, with 30 stab wounds and his head wrapped in packing tape and a shirt.

The parents of Reynaldo de Guzman identified his remains yesterday afternoon at a local funeral parlor after an agonizing search that began on the night of Aug. 17 when he and Arnaiz went missing after leaving their homes in Cainta, Rizal to have snacks.

Ten days later, 19-year-old Arnaiz - a former student of the University of the Philippines - was found in a Calocan morgue where he was brought after being killed reportedly in an encounter with city policemen. Police claimed Arnaiz was killed after he robbed a taxi driver and resisted arrest.

De Guzman's parents learned about the discovery of what could be his remains from a Facebook post by the funeral parlor.

Gapan police chief Supt. Peter Madria said De Guzman's body was found at around 11:30 a.m. Tuesday by residents of Barangay San Roque floating in the Kinamatayang Kabayo Creek, around 10 meters from the national highway.

"We were informed about the body at around 1:30 p.m.,"

## 30 stab From Page 1

Madria said in a phone interview.

Police initially had no information regarding the identity of the shirtless victim. He was wearing only a pair of orange shorts with a Batman logo when found.

"The victim sustained at least 30 stab wounds on the

body," Madria said.

De Guzman's parents Eduardo and Lina were able to identify him through a birthmark at the back of an ear and a wart on the left knee.

*"Bakit po anak ko ginanyan niyo? Walang awang pinagsasaksak. Bigyan nyo ng hustisya ang anak ko (Why did you do*

this to my child? Mercilessly stabbed. Give him justice)," De Guzman's distraught mother Lina cried.

His father Eduardo said he was wondering why his young son ended up in a province several kilometers away.

"He is from Cainta and now he ended up here. He is only 14 years old," a visibly emotional Eduardo said in an interview with reporters aired on TV.

*"Pulis Kalookan ang nakadale*

*dyan (Caloocan police got him),"* he added.

Residents told investigators they heard sounds of a vehicle arriving in their community before dawn Tuesday.

"The vehicle stopped beside the creek. They thought the people inside only threw trash," said Madria.

The victim's body was still relatively fresh according to investigators, indicating he was killed recently, Madria added.

07 September 2017



Page: 14

# NPA behind slay of tribal leader – Army

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

**C**AMP BANCASI, Butuan City— The killing of a Manobo tribal leader Tuesday sparked an uproar from the military, and tribal communities, according to Fourth Infantry Division (4th ID) spokesperson Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez.

“The killing of Datu Randy Sandag Porogoy is a blatant execution and this is another Lumad killing purposely to sow threat and violence among the peace-loving Lumads and to the Filipino people as a whole,” Martinez said in a statement released to media Wednesday.

According to a police report, Datu Porogoy, who is a Manobo tribal leader in Agusan del Norte, was onboard his

motorcycle Tuesday, and was on his way to Santiago town to visit the Manobo community Panlayan, when three unidentified men, also in a motorcycle, shot him three times in the back.

He died on the spot.

Lt. Col. Glenn Aynera, commanding officer of the 29th Infantry Battalion (29th IB) based in Agusan del Norte, tagged the New People’s Army (NPA) as the one behind the killing of Porogoy.

“We decry the terroristic act and brutality of the NPA bandits,” said Aynera.

However, in an interview with local newsmen, the guerilla-Front Committee 16 through their spokesperson, a certain “Ka Oto,” strongly denied the accusation the military’s accusation.

But according to Aynera, Porogoy strongly denounced NPA atrocities in the region and led his tribe in support-

ing government programs for peace and development, which could have earned the ire of the Communist insurgent group.

“The attack on Datu Porogoy was a clear and undeniable proof of the NPA’s human rights atrocities in Lumad communities and 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,” alleged the 29th IB commander.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva, chief of the 4th ID on Wednesday 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.

07 September 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. B6

# Group links killing of lumad student to logging, mining

BY ALLADIN S. DIEGA  
Correspondent

**A** GROUP working for lumad children in Davao del Norte is linking the killing on Tuesday of Obillo Bay-ao, a 19-year-old Grade 6 lumad student of Saluggungan Ta "Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center to a logging company and the government's plan to build a mining highway that leads up to the Pantaron Range.

The school, located in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, backs Pantaron Mountain Range, also called the Central Cordillera of Mindanao,

straddling across the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Davao and Davao del Sur.

"The school, along with its students, has long been the target of a paramilitary group with alleged links with the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Save Our Schools Network Spokesman Rius Valle said on Wednesday, during a news conference held in the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Obillo was declared dead by the Davao Regional Hospital on Tuesday

night. He sustained serious gunshot wounds from suspected members of the Civilian Armed Forces Group Unit (Cafgu) in Talaingod.

Valle said Bay-ao is the 47th victim of political killings in the Southern Mindanao Region.

The Bay-ao family is one of 200 evacuee-families that fled their area in July due to threats of paramilitary group Alamara, which seemed to have been emboldened by the announcement of President Duterte in his State of the Nation Address (Sona) that he would order the bombing of lumad schools.

Valle said that, together with

other evacuees, the Bay-ao family went back to their communities last month. Barely two weeks upon returning home, Obillo, together with his 51-year-old father Benjo and 16-year-old brother Efren, went to their farm to harvest corn. The farm, situated near a river and a boundary of Sitio Baroobo and Sitio Dulyan is 1 kilometer away from their residence.

Obillo went home early after lunch, as he had a headache. Only 30 meters away from their village, Obillo was shot twice by Joven and Ben Salanaggani, identified as Cafgu members, Valle explained.

Obillo was brought to Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum, but succumbed eventually to the gunshots that same evening.

The Saluggungan community has been the target of many attacks in the past, and it came into national awareness again a day after Duterte, in a news conference after his Sona in July, threatened to bomb it, along with other lumad schools, for allegedly operating illegally and for teaching subversion in support of the communist rebellion.

The school denied the accusations and explained they have been working with the Department of

Education's Indigenous Peoples' Education Program, which aims to combat illiteracy in the indigenous communities.

Saluggungan was formed in 1994, uniting 83 Manobo tribes of Talaingod to defend the ancestral domain against what they called encroachment of the logging company Alcantara and Sons.

Led by Datu Guibang Apoga, the group engaged in negotiations with Talaingod local government and the military, but eventually decided to launch a *pangayaw*, a tribal war to defend their ancestral land.



09 September 2017

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

Page: \_\_\_\_\_

## Classes resume in 12 public schools in Marawi City

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Classes resumed in 12 public elementary schools in Marawi City yesterday despite the continuing clashes between government forces and Daesh-inspired fighters in the main battle area.

Brigadier General Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, said classes in Sultan Conditioning Elementary School, Sikap Elementary School, Cabingan Primary School, Banga Elementary School. ▶2



**A DEVASTATED CITY – A hole in the wall of a building gouged by an artillery or rocket round offers a view of the extensive damage in Marawi City after more than 100 days of fighting. (Romeo Ranoco/Reuters)**

## Classes resume in 12... ◀1

Datu Tambak Elementary School, Rorogagus Elementary School, Bito Elementary School, Pendolonan Elementary School, Abdulazis Elementary School, Camp Bagong Amai Pakpak Central Elementary School, Sugod Elementary School, and Mipaga Elementary School resumed Tuesday.

"We are nearing the end of the battle with the gun fight confined to the main battle area in the besieged city. Security measures are being tightened to preempt any attempts by the terrorists to hamper classes," Bautista said.

The different Joint Task Groups under JTF Marawi had a series of conferences, discussing security preparations and arrangements to ensure the safety of faculty members and students.

"This is one of the steps taken by the security forces and the local government units to bring normalcy in the city. We are taking a gradual phase because we want to ensure that we are doing the right thing and that we are giving priority to the welfare

of the Maranaos," Bautista said.

"We are optimistic that as long as everyone is taking the same path, we will surely win this war against terrorism," said Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command. "I have always said that 'education is the antidote for peace', and with that, your Armed Forces will make sure that we will continue to work for the rehabilitation of the other schools, colleges and universities within the city that were affected by this crisis. We will be with the people in taking the road to normalcy," Galvez assured.

Last August 22, 600 students were transported from Iligan City to the campus of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City as classes resumed in the said university.

More than 9,000 students of MSU joined the university's 56th founding Anniversary celebration with Galvez as guest of honor and speaker.

"Unity in diversity is not a myth. What we have done here can attest to that line," said lawyer Jamaloden Basar, MSU VP for Administration. "We may be different in our beliefs but we are the same in one goal: we want to promote peace and edu-

cation in the lives of the next generation," he added.

Following the opening of the schools, other government offices will also soon start cleaning their respective offices in Marawi City for the immediate resumption of their operations.

### China, US assistance

Meanwhile, General Eduardo Año, AFP chief of staff expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government for supporting the troops working to liberate a portion of Marawi from the clutches of Muslim extremists.

On Tuesday, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines, Zhao Jianhua handed to the AFP in Quezon city a P5M check for soldiers in Marawi.

Ambassador Zhao said that another P15M donation will be given before the end of the year to assist the Philippine government in the rehabilitation of Marawi, particularly in the delivery of engineering equipment.

The Chinese donation came on the same day that the United States (US) government said it was making available over \$15 million (approximately P730 million) for the ongoing emergency relief operations and the longer term recovery and rehabilitation of Marawi City and its surrounding areas.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim said the emergency assistance will be provided through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the lead US government agency that works to enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential.

Of the amount, P153 million will be humanitarian assistance through USAID's Foreign Disaster Assistance 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 provided to support the early recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation of Marawi and the surrounding area.

The US envoy said this is in addition to the assistance already provided by USAID, including 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 psychosocial support for affected teachers and students.

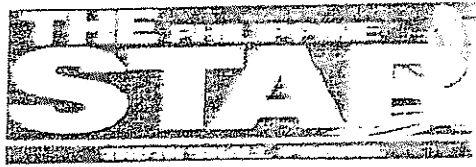
In a statement, Malacañang said, “We welcome the assistance of the United States to finance emergency relief and recovery efforts for the areas affected by the Marawi rebellion. The devastation wrought by the Mautes, inspired by the perverse Daesh doctrine, is extensive. Hence, the recovery and rebuilding of Marawi cannot be done overnight.” Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said.

“It is a multi-year rehabilitation effort which requires the full support and cooperation of everyone to help the city rise as a prosperous city again, as promised by the President,” he continued.

The Department of Education (DepEd) likewise received school furniture and repair aid from a Japanese foundation, R.K. Shimizu (Nagasaki) Foundation, Inc. as a sign of support to the DepEd’s initiative to repair and rehabilitate schools damaged by the armed conflict in Marawi City.

The Department received a total donation of 3,326 items – which included 1,000 adjustable tables, 990 adjustable chairs, 571 “randoseru” or firm-sided backpacks, and 114 fixed stand tables. These are currently lodged at the warehouse of the Department of Energy (DOE) and are ready for delivery once clearance from the Department of National Defense (DND) has been obtained. (With reports from Nonoy E. Lacson, Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos and Merlina Hernando-Malipot)

07 September 2017



Page: 13

# Classes resume in Marawi public schools

By JOHN UNSON

**LANAODEL SUR - It's back to school for around 9,000 elementary students in 12 public schools in Marawi.**

Students returned to the Sultan Conding, Sikap, Cabilangan, Banga, Datu Tambak, Rorogagus, Bito, Pendolonan, Abdulazis, Camp Bagong Amai Pakpak, Sugod and Mipaga Elementary Schools on Tuesday. The schools failed to open last June due to the fighting between government troops and Maute militants.

Ana Zenaida Unte, Department of Education-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao assistant superintendent for Marawi schools, said they would adjust the calendar to ensure that students can complete the requirement of 182 school days.

"Innovations need to be done like holding classes even

during summer," Unte said.

She thanked personnel of the Task Force Marawi, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) and Lanao del Sur police for approving their request to reopen the schools.

"These schools are located in cleared areas. There is no reason for us not to reopen," Unte said.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Westmincom spokesperson, said the schools are still under close watch by the military.

## Degree of normalcy

A "degree of normalcy" has been attained with the opening of the public schools on Tuesday and Mindanao State Uni-

versity last week, Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, said yesterday.

"The students have gone back to their schools to show that terrorism, criminality, abuses or being frightened will never quench their thirst for knowledge," Arevalo said.

He said six of the schools are within the city proper. Business establishments around the schools also reopened.

Arevalo said Mayor Majur Usman Gandamra also opened a temporary office to give a semblance of normalcy in the city.

He said employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways started cleaning their offices as they prepare to return to work.

"We are pushing toward the conclusion of the operations

to restore total normalcy and allow government agencies to start the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi," Arevalo said.

## Additional budget

Meanwhile, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the AFP sought additional funds to replenish their weapons and ammunition in Marawi.

"They are running out of supplies. Their bombs and bullets are almost depleted," Diokno told a press briefing yesterday.

He did not say how much the AFP is asking, but said the amount is "manageable."

Diokno said the money would be sourced from the P6-billion contingent fund under this year's budget. - With Jaime Laude, Michael Punongbayan, Mary Grace Padin

07 September 2017

**Malaya**  
THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Page: 62

## Marawi returning to normalcy: AFP

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday claimed “a certain degree of normalcy” had been achieved in Marawi City which is still under siege by members of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group.

AFP public affairs chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo made the claim during a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo and announced the resumption of classes in 12 schools in the city on Tuesday.

“We are proud to announce that we already attained a certain degree of normalcy in Marawi. Yesterday, 12 schools re-opened... Nine thousand students are now studying and have gone back to their schools,” said Arevalo.

He said six of the schools are inside the Mindanao State University compound while the six others are within the compound periphery. The MSU resumed classes last August 22.

The AFP’s Western Mindanao Command said the 12 schools that opened yesterday were the Sultan Conding Elementary School, Sikap Elementary School, Cabangan Primary School, Banga Elementary School, Datu Tambak

Elementary School, Rorogagus Elementary School, Bito Elementary School, Pendolonan Elementary School, Abdulazis Elementary School, Camp Bagong Amai Pakpak Central Elementary School, Sugod Elementary School, and Mipaga Elementary School.

Arevalo could not immediately say how many schools are still closed due to the ongoing fighting but said efforts are underway so these schools can also be opened.

“We are going to continue to coordinate with the local government, local department of education entities and agencies in the area so that these (still-closed schools) opening the soonest time possible,” said Arevalo.

Arevalo said the opening of the 12 schools shows that terrorism cannot “quench” the “thirst” of the students for knowledge.

“Naturally, the opening of the classes also paved the way for the opening of establishments that caters to the needs of the students, like canteens and stores selling school supplies.

Arevalo said clearing operations are being conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways to restore structures needed for

the recovery of Marawi.

“We also received information that Mayor (Majul Usman) Gandamra has recently opened a temporary office within Marawi to further establish or give a semblance of normalcy in that city,” said Arevalo.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, said the re-opening of the 12 schools was “one of the steps taken by the security forces and the local government units to bring normalcy in the city.

07 September 2017

INQUIRY

Page: A14

# Troops back MILF rebs fighting pro-IS group

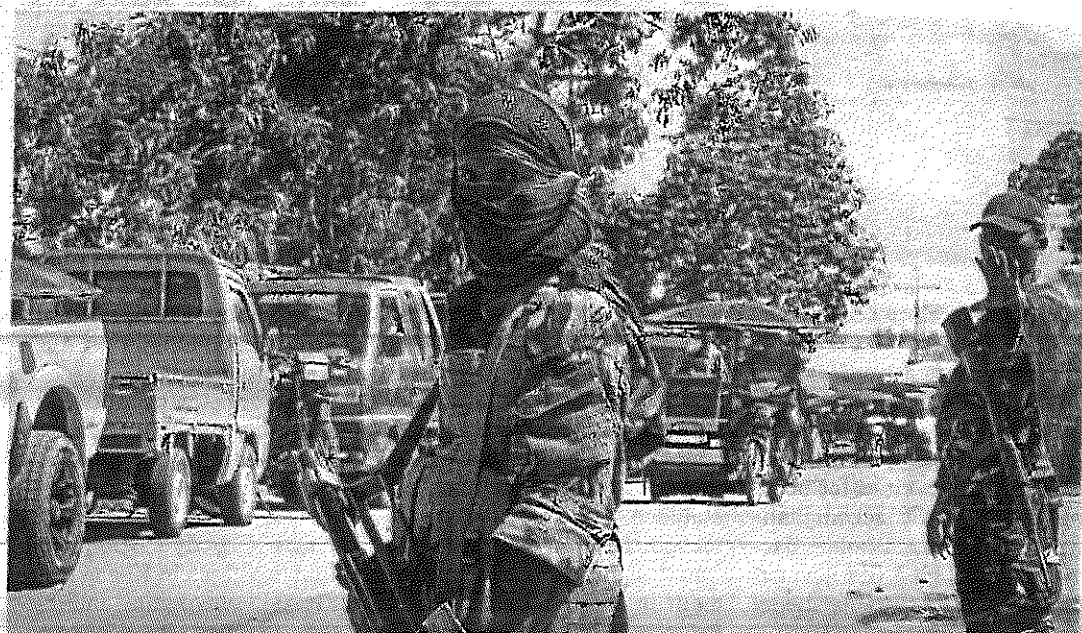
**Military exec says alliance with Moro rebels in battle with militants 'win-win' situation**

DATU SALIBO, MAGUINDANAO—The military said it had teamed up with old foes behind a long-running Muslim insurgency as it looks to eject a breakaway gang of radical militants pledging loyalty to the Islamic State (IS).

As artillery shells and rockets pounded targets in this farming town in Maguindanao province, soldiers were seen mingling freely with several hundred Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters who have joined an assault on gunmen here.

The joint operation is the latest tactic by the Philippine government to try to stamp out pro-IS fighters, after more than three months of battling a separate faction of militants who have besieged Marawi City in Lanao del Sur province, about 100 kilometers to the north.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commander of the military's 6th Infantry Division, said militant groups had taken the opportunity "to build up their forces" while government troops were engaged in the



**JOINT PATROL** A Moro Islamic Liberation Front member (left) and an Army soldier man a checkpoint in Datu Salibo town in Maguindanao as the government and Moro rebels pursue militants supporting the Islamic State. —AFP

Marawi conflict.

The alliance with MILF included "providing them with indirect fire support and even air support and other expertise," he told Agence France-Presse (AFP), adding that the awkwardness of fighting along-

side former longtime foes had vanished.

A rebellion by the 10,000-strong MILF has claimed more than 100,000 lives, by government estimates. The group signed a peace treaty in 2014 but will not disarm before the

government passes a proposed law granting autonomy to the Muslim regions of the Philippines, a largely Catholic nation.

But small factions continue to fight, as frustration builds over the bill, which has stalled in Congress.

The military is feeding intelligence to the MILF in the fight against about 60 militants led by Esmael Abdulmalik alias Abu Turaifi, a former MILF guerrilla leader, according to Dela Vega.

But he said government soldiers would not merge with the MILF fighting groups because they had "different operational tactics and procedures" in the conflict, which began in early August on marshlands here.

"By and large the result has been substantially in our favor," Dela Vega said.

He said the deal was a "win-win" situation for both the government and the MILF.

Mohagher Iqbal, a senior MILF leader, said the break-away Abu Turaifi-led militants wanted to steal the MILF's guerrilla Army and had the same goals as the pro-IS militant faction seeking to carve out territory in Marawi.

The Marawi battle has left nearly a thousand people dead, but several dozen gunmen continue to resist months of airstrikes and still hold hostages. -AFP

07 September 2017

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

Page: 1

## Gov't troops join forces with MILF in fighting IS-inspired BIFF

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD and AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DATU SALIBO – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has teamed up with old foes behind a long-running Muslim insurgency as it looks to eject a breakaway gang of radical militants pledging loyalty to the Islamic State (IS) group. ▶7

### Gov't troops join... ◀1

As artillery shells and rockets pounded targets nearby, soldiers were seen mingling freely with several hundred Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters who have joined assaults on the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the restive southern island Mindanao. The BIFF is a breakaway group of the MILF.

At least 10 BIFF gunmen were reportedly killed in the series of airstrikes launched by the AFP Joint Task Force Central in Maguindanao last Sunday.

"The airstrikes were employed by our operating troops with the end state of destroying the strongholds of terrorists, thus, depriving them of means to support their nefarious ploys, which are not limited to their IED-making activities and training of recruits," Major General Arnel dela Vega, commander of the the AFP Joint Task Force Central, said.

Troops from the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion, reinforced by fighters from the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces-MILF (BIAF-MILF), engaged the Daesh-inspired BIFF gunmen in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao, last September 3.

Two BIAF-MILF members were also killed in the clashes. They were identified as Butukan Bungayen alias Mantukan Bungayen, and Jojo Sampayan.

The joint operation is the latest tactic by the Philippine government to try to stamp out pro-IS fighters, after months of battling a separate faction of militants who have besieged the city of Marawi, about 100 kilometers to the north.

Dela Vega said militant groups had taken the opportunity "to build up their forces" while government troops were engaged in the Marawi conflict.

The alliance with MILF included "providing them with indirect fire support and

even air support and other expertise," he told AFP, adding that the awkwardness of fighting alongside former long-time foes had evaporated.

AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr., said the combat operations are necessary measures taken by the MILF members against terror groups operating in Maguindanao.

"We laud the liberation front's leadership for supporting the government's drive for peace to thrive in Mindanao against terrorism, criminalities, and drugs," Galvez said.

"We hope this call for peace would resonate and encourage more groups, organizations, and Filipinos to join the government in combating terrorism, and illegal drugs," Galvez said.

A rebellion by the 10,000-strong MILF has claimed more than 100,000 lives, by government estimates. The group signed a peace treaty in 2014 but will not disarm before the government passes a proposed law granting autonomy to the Muslim regions of the mainly Catholic nation.

But small factions continue to fight, as frustration builds over the bill, which has stalled in Congress.

The military is feeding intelligence to the MILF in the fight against about 60 militants, led by Esmael Abdulmalik alias Abu Turaifi, a former MILF guerrilla leader, according to Dela Vega.

But he said troop units would not merge with the MILF fighting groups because they had "different operational tactics and procedures" in the conflict, which began in early August on wild marshlands some 800 kilometers south of Manila.

"By and large the result has been substantially in our favor," Dela Vega said.



07 September 2017

# The Manila Times

Page: A2

## Soldiers back Muslim rebels fighting IS

**DATU SALIBO, Philippines:** The Philippine military said it has teamed up with old foes behind a long-running Muslim insurgency as it looks to eject a breakaway gang of radical militants pledging loyalty to the Islamic State group.

As artillery shells and rockets pounded targets nearby, soldiers were seen mingling freely with several hundred Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters who have joined an assault on gunmen in the restive southern island Mindanao.

The joint operation is the latest tactic by the Philippine government to try to stamp out pro-IS fighters, after months of battling a separate faction of militants who have besieged the city of Marawi, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) to the north.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega said militant groups had taken the opportunity "to build up their forces" while government troops were engaged in the Marawi conflict.

The alliance with MILF included "providing them with indirect fire support and even air support and other expertise." He said that the awkwardness of fighting alongside former long-time foes had evaporated.

A rebellion by the 10,000-strong MILF has claimed more than 100,000 lives, by government estimates. The group signed a peace treaty in 2014 but will not disarm before the government passes a proposed law granting autonomy to the Muslim regions of the mainly Catholic nation.

But small factions continue to fight, as frustration builds over the bill, which has stalled in Congress.

The military is feeding intelligence to the MILF in the fight against about 60 militants led by Esmael Abdulmalik alias Abu Turaifi, a former MILF guerrilla leader, according to dela Vega.

But he said troop units would not merge with the MILF fighting groups because they had "different operational tactics and procedures."

"By and large the result has been substantially in our favor," dela Vega said.

A television journalist saw two military helicopters firing at the militant faction's positions, while a police van collected MILF dead and wounded near the farming town of Datu Salibo on Tuesday.

Dela Vega said that the deal was a "win-win" situation for both the government and the MILF.

Mohagher Iqbal, a senior MILF leader, said the breakaway Abu Turaifi-led militants wanted to steal the MILF's guerrilla army and had the same goals as the pro-IS militant faction seeking to carve out territory in Marawi.

The Marawi battle has left nearly a thousand people dead, but several dozen gunmen continue to resist months of air strikes and still hold hostages.

07 September 2017



Page: AT

## Death of 9 wounded soldiers hike Marawi toll to 145

MARAWI CITY—Nine critically wounded soldiers have died while undergoing treatment in two medical facilities since last week, increasing the government death toll to 145, the military said on Wednesday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Joint Task Force Marawi, said the soldiers were among those wounded in the recent fighting and were airlifted to Armed Forces General Hospital in Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro City.

The fighting in the lakeside city has entered its fourth month, although its intensity has declined, according to the military.

Military spokesmen said the crisis could soon be over as

the Maute group and its allies were now fighting within an area of a few hundred square meters.

"We are gaining ground as we continue to flush out members of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf," Petinglay said.

The military ground assault and air strikes have killed 641 enemies since May 23, when the crisis started, she said.

Among those reportedly killed was Abdullah Maute, one of the two brothers that headed the Maute group.

Petinglay said there was no indication yet that Abdullah's cadaver had been taken out of the main battle area.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, who heads the military's

Western Mindanao Command, said they intercepted conversations between local and foreign terrorists on the social media platform Telegram indicating that Abdullah had been killed.

He said the Maute leader might have died between Aug. 14 and 26.

This was not the first time that the military reported that a Maute leader had been killed. In June, it said that it received a report that Abdullah's brother Omar had also been killed.

Omar was later seen alive, but injured, by several witnesses, including escaped hostages, in the main battle area. —JEOP-

FREY MAITEM INQ

17 September 2017

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

Page: 8

• **Bloodletting for Marawi troops**

CAMP G. NAKAR, Lucena City – The Armed Forces of the Philippines - Southern Luzon Command (AFP-Solcom) in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) conducted a blood donation drive for the benefit of the members of the soldiers and other units who were wounded in the Marawi City crisis. Major General Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., Solcom chief said the activity, dubbed as "Dugo Para sa Kapayapaan," is part of the National Peace Consciousness Month's Nationwide Bloodletting in partnership with PNP Peace Process and Development Office (PNPPDO), Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserved Command (AFPRESCOM) and Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay Inc. (DABDI). A total of 64,350 cc of blood was collected from 150 qualified soldiers, reservists, police officers and civilian volunteers, he added. (Danny J. Estacio)

07 September 2017



Pahina. 02

### China nag-donate ng P5M para sa Marawi soldiers

Nagdonasyon ang pamahalaan ng China ng P5 milyon sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) bilang suporta sa tropa ng mga sundalo na patuloy na nakikipagbakbakan sa Maute-ISIS sa lungsod ng Marawi na nasa mahigit 100 araw na.

Ang P5M tsekeng donasyon ay personal na iniabot ni Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua kay AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año sa isang simpleng seremonya sa Hall of Flags, General Headquarters

Building Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"The donation is for the soldiers operating in the battle-stricken Marawi City," pahayag ni AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) Chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Bukod sa nasabing donasyon ay nakatakda pang tumanggap ng karagdagang P15M ang AFP mula sa China bago magtapos ang taong 2017 bilang tulong naman sa rehabilitasyon sa lungsod ng Marawi na nasira sa labanan.

"The amount will go a long way as it has already

been deposited yesterday after the hand over to the AFP Chief Gen. Eduardo Año and now form part of the running tally of around P38.1 M donations for the soldiers killed or wounded in Marawi," ani Arevalo.

Pinasalamatán naman ni Año si Jianhua sa suporta nito sa mga sundalo sa Marawi City.

Nangako rin ang China na magbibigay ng 3,000 rifles sa AFP kabilang na ang mga sniper rifles na bahagi nito ay darating ngayong buwan. (Joy Cantos)

07 September 2017

# BusinessMirror

Page. A3

## China turns over P5-M check for Marawi soldiers

**C**HINA has turned over a check to the Armed Forces as part of its continuing support to the Duterte administration and the military, including in its ongoing operations against the Maute-Islamic State group in Marawi City.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua handed over a check worth P5 million on Tuesday to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año at Camp Aguinaldo as Beijing's assistance to troops fighting

terrorists in Marawi City.

During the donation, Zhao said another donation worth P15 million will be given before the end of the year to assist in the rehabilitation of Marawi City, particularly in the delivery of engineering equipment.

Año expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government. Military Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the assistance boost the military drive against the terrorists in the city.

"The amount will go a long way as it

has already been deposited yesterday [Tuesday] after the hand over to the AFP chief General Eduardo M. Año and now form part of the running tally of around P38.1 million donations for the soldiers killed or wounded in Marawi," Arevalo said. "We express our appreciation to the Chinese government, through its Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua, for their generous gesture of donating P5 million in check to Filipino soldiers battling terrorists in Marawi," he added. *Rene Acosta*

07 September 2017



Page. 01

# Airstrikes kill 10 BIFF fighters

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Ten members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were reportedly killed in a series of airstrikes launched by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Joint Task Force Central in Maguindanao over the weekend.

Reports said troops of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion reinforced fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces-Moro Islamic Liberation Front, who were engaging factions of the Daesh-inspired group Sunday morning in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao.

The military airstrike reportedly resulted to the deaths of 10 BIFF fighters and an undetermined

number of wounded on the enemy side.

Two BIAF-MILF members meanwhile were slain in a clash with the BIFF fighters and both were identified as Butukan Bungayen, alias Mantukan Bungayen, and Jojo Sampayan.

AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., said the combat operations are necessary measures taken by the MILF members against terror groups operating in Maguindanao.

"We laud the liberation front's leadership for supporting the government's drive for peace to thrive in Mindanao against terrorism, criminalities and drugs," Galvez said.

07 September 2017

## BusinessMirror

Page. B3

# Ten BIFF combatants killed in Maguindanao

BY RENE ACOSTA  
@reneacostaBM

TEN members of a faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State were killed during a series of air strikes in Maguindanao, military officials reported on Wednesday.

The weekend bombings were carried out as the military intensified its operations against the BIFF in Central Mindanao, following a statement earlier by President Duterte about the presence of IS-inspired terrorists in the area, particularly in the municipality of Buldon.

While local officials and even members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) initially dismissed the information, they said the terrorists may be seeking refuge at Mount Cararao, which sits at the border of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman of the Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command

(Westmincom), said the military's Joint Task Force (JTF) Central carried out a series of air strikes against the IS-inspired BIFF at Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao last Sunday.

Petinglay said the bombings, which ceased at around 2 p.m. on the same day, were in support to the members of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion and MILF fighters who were battling the BIFF.

The Army troops reinforced members of the MILF who were fighting the IS-inspired faction of the BIFF.

Two members of the MILF identified as Butukan Bungayen and Jojo Sampayan were killed during the fighting.

The BIFF is a breakaway group of the MILF, and a faction of the BIFF which pledged allegiance to the Islamic State later broke away from the main BIFF group.

"The air strikes were employed by our operating troops with the end state of destroying the strongholds of terrorists, thus, depriving them of means to support their

nefarious ploys, which are not limited to their IED [improvised explosi device] making activities and training of recruits," Petinglay quoted Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commander of the JTF Central, as saying.

On Monday Air Force planes launched another series of air strikes against the BIFF as MILF members continued to engage the bandits in the same barangay in Datu Salibo.

"These combat operations are necessary measures taken by the MILF members against terror groups, operating in Maguindanao. We laud the liberation front's leadership for supporting the government's drive for peace to thrive in Mindanao against terrorism, criminalities and drugs," Westmincom Commander Lt. General Carlito Galvez Jr. said.

"We hope this call for peace would resonate and encourage more groups, organizations and Filipinos to join the government in combating terrorism and illegal drugs," he added.

67 September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

## Military mum on arrest of Nur Misuari

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday said it was too early to discuss the whereabouts of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chairman Nur Misuari, after the Sandiganbayan anti-graft ordered his arrest for graft charges.

"That is too early to discuss. We have not received even an informal report," AFP public affairs chief Edgard Arevalo told a news conference.

The Sandiganbayan Third Division, in a resolution dated August 31, ordered the arrest of Misuari and seven others for graft and malversation through falsification, in connection with the irregular purchase of P115.2 million worth of textbooks in 2000 and 2001, when Misuari was governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Malacañang on Tuesday said it would neither block Misuari's arrest nor ask the anti-graft court to junk the cases, despite President Rodrigo Duterte's close ties with the rebel leader. Duterte has met Misuari in Malacañang at least four times.

Arevalo said the military had yet to be notified by the court or furnished copies of the arrest warrant, which

► ArrestA8



■ **ARREST FROM A1**

## Military mum on Misuari arrest

will be served by the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

In November last year, the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 158 ordered the temporary suspension

of Misuari's arrest order over his involvement in the Zamboanga siege in 2013.

It was Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza who personally handed over the suspension order of Misuari last year in Jolo, Sulu.

Dempsey Reyes  
**DEMPSEY REYES  
AND REINA TOLENTINO**

07 September 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newpaper

Page: 64

## Arrest warrant for Misuari out

**BY PETER TABINGO**

WARRANTS of arrest against Nur Misuari have been forwarded to the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the NBI for service to the Moro National Liberation Front founder and former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Misuari, whose whereabouts are unknown, is facing two graft charges and two counts of malversation through falsification of public documents in relation to alleged anomalous procurement of educational materials for public schools in the sum of P115.2 million.

Likewise covered by the arrest warrants were ARMM-Department of Education former director Leovigilda Cinches, former chief accountant Pangalian Maniri, former supply officer Sitie Aisa Usman, former accountant Alladin Usi, Commission on Audit-ARMM former resident auditor Nader Macagaan, and private individuals Cristeta Ramirez of CPR Publishing and Lolita Sambeli of White Orchids

See ARREST > Page B6

## ARREST

Printing and Publishing House.

While the graft cases are bailable offenses with bonds set at P30,000 per count, the complex crime of malversation of public funds committed with falsification of public documents as a means to conceal the theft of public money was only recently ruled permissible for bail by the Supreme Court.

Even as it overruled the prosecution's recommendation to hold defendants without bail for the heftier offense, the Sandiganbayan Third Division ordered the bail bond set at P200,000 per case.

This means Misuari would have to put up a total of P460,000 to stay out of jail.

The amount could go higher as there is another pair of graft and malversation charges leveled against him that requires only additional proof from the Office of the Ombudsman after the court noted that documents mentioned in the information were not appended to the case records.

Lawyer Dennis Pulma, Third Division clerk of court, said the warrants were drafted last August 31 but copies had to be delivered first to the PNP, the NBI, and their respective offices in Mindanao.

The court is empowered to deputize law enforcement agencies to enforce its warrants and other issuances.

Emmanuel Fontanilla, counsel for Misuari, in a text message to reporters said the MNLF leader "will respect the due process" but declined to elaborate.

Misuari was spotted last month in Davao City, Duterte's hometown "in early June," said a military official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Misuari has met with President Duterte four times, three of them in Malacañang.

The first was on November 13 last year after a court suspended for six months an arrest warrant for a rebellion case in connection with the "Zamboanga siege" in September 2013. Another six-month suspension has been is-

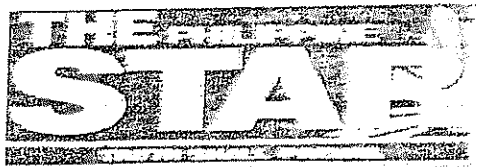
sued. The suspensions are meant to, among others, allow Misuari to participate in the drafting of the proposed Bangsamoro law and to continue talks with the government for the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the MNLF and government.

The second meeting with Duterte happened in November 26, also in Malacañang. The third was last March 26, two days before Duterte's birthday, in Davao City. The last meeting was in Malacañang on August 3.

In Basilan meanwhile, policemen arrested on Tuesday a man carrying an ID card showing he is an MNLF member "in good standing."

Boy Hamja, who was collared by members of the provincial drug enforcement unit in his lair in Barangay Bohe Baka in Tipo-Tipo town, has arrest warrants for murder, robbery in band, extortion, and illegal drugs trade, said Supt. Christopher Panapan, officer-in-charge of Basilan provincial police office - *With Victor Reyes, Jocelyn Montemayor and Raymond Africa*

02 September 2017



Page: 5

## China proposes joint counterterror drills with Phi

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

China is seeking to conduct joint military exercises with the Philippines to combat terrorism.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua relayed China's proposal for training with the country's special forces.

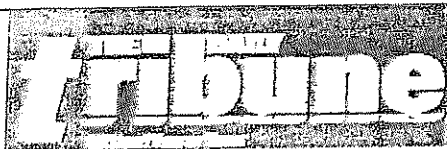
Arevalo told reporters in a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday that China's proposal was made after its P5-million donation for the benefit of soldiers fighting the Maute group in Marawi City.

It pledged another P15 million to help in the locality's rehabilitation, Arevalo said.

Arevalo added Zhao, in his talks with AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año on Tuesday, also discussed China's desire for continuing exchange of information between the two countries.

He said such exchanges include the sharing of intelligence information and other forms of cooperation "in relation to fighting global threat on terror."

07 September 2017



Page: 4

## Defense department to acquire 'Sidewinder' air-to-air missiles

The Department of National Defense (DND) will acquire sufficient stocks of AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air missiles for the country's 12 FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" jet aircraft.

This was bared by DND public affairs office chief Arsenio Andolong in an interview yesterday.

"Notice to Proceed was issued to Diehl Raytheon of Germany last August 31. The ('Sidewinder' contract) is worth P1,016,784,088," he added.

Andolong declined to give the

specific number and delivery dates of the missiles for security reasons. But he said the "weapons are sufficient for all of the country's FA-50s."

Andolong added the AIM-9s to be acquired are "all live rounds and fresh from the factory," meaning all of its sensors, rocket motors and warheads are brand-new.

With the pending delivery of the missiles, the FA-50s will now have another weapon for air-to-air combat aside from its internal 20mm cannon, making

it more capable of protecting the country's airspace against airborne threats.

The AIM-9, which was developed by the US Navy in the 1950s, is one of the world's most reliable and successful air-to-air missiles.

It utilizes infrared homing for guidance and tracking and has a top speed of Mach 3 or three times the speed of sound. Its warhead weighs around 20 pounds and the missile has a length of 9 feet and 11 inches.

**PNA**

07 September 2017



Page: A1

## China planted flag on PH isle, Magdalo says

A STAUNCH critic of President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday revealed the presence of a Chinese fishing vessel that planted a Chinese flag near Philippine-controlled Kota Island.

Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano said he had received another information that it was a Chinese fishing vessel with Bow Number 23168 that planted the flag.

"The information came from the same informant who reported the presence of a Chinese flotilla on Pagasa Island, which was later on admitted by the Philippine and Chinese governments," said Alejano, a former marine officer.

Two weeks ago, he said a Chinese flag mounted on a three-meter high steel pipe was planted by a Chinese

vessel on a sandbar seven nautical miles northeast off Kota Island towards the end of July. The sandbar is part of the network of sandbars, coral reefs and atolls between Kota and Panata Islands occupied and controlled by the Philippines.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Cayetano earlier said the incident was not a cause for concern. *Next page*

### China...

From A1

But Alejano said there had been more incidents detrimental to the interest of the country, which had not come out in the open because Philippine government officials had opted to reveal them.

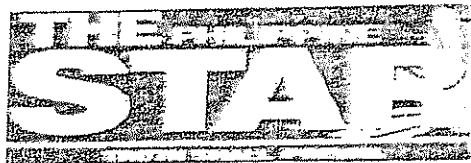
On Aug. 29, Alejano said the Armed Forces admitted there was indeed such incident, but that no flag was found but instead a sack

placed on a pole that could have served as markers by those who had planted it there.

"I understand the predicament of the AFP. They cannot go against the policy of the president. Those who removed the flag will not report it as a Chinese flag if it was just a sack," Alejano said.

"I am not against China. I support talking with China but it should not be at the expense of our interest in the West Philippine Sea." **Maricel V. Cruz**

07 September 2017



Page: 13

## Thousands displaced in N. Vizcaya AFP-NPA clashes

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya – Thousands of residents, including children, have been forced to leave their homes amid clashes between government troops and New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in Nueva Vizcaya.

The municipal social welfare and development office yesterday reported that over 2,000 people left their homes in Barangays Paquet and Dine in Kasibu town.

Hundreds of families in Barangays Pao and Kakiduguen near the mountain border of Nagtipunan, Quirino also reportedly left their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire.

Village councilman Dominador Madriaga said classes were suspended in affected areas.

Kasibu Mayor Chito Bumolo deployed municipal personnel to bring the evacuees

to the town's gymnasium for relief assistance.

Bumolo also directed the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to check the condition of those who are staying with their relatives in other barangays.

A village official said at least 300 rebels set up camps in the town's mountain boundaries.

Four soldiers have been killed and another wounded in the clashes since Sept. 1.

Another firefight occurred at around 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

In Agusan del Norte, Rustico Porogoy, a tribal chieftain in Santiago town was killed by suspected NPA rebels in Purok 3, Barangay Comagascas, Cabadbaran on Tuesday.

Porogoy was reportedly driving his motorcycle on his way to work when the assailants on another motorbike opened fire. – Victor Martin, Ben Serrano

07 September 2017



Page:   A11  

## Who is winning the war in Marawi?

**A** war veteran once said: "Nobody wins in a war. They lost but we didn't win." This is the reality of war—a didacticism that our leaders should not overlook.

This comes to mind as the battle for Marawi City winds down. According to the Army, only about 40 extremists are trapped in an area of less than 500 square meters and are making their last stand in three mosques, the biggest of which is the Bato Mosque, a huge edifice more of a fort than a place of worship because of its dungeons, tunnels and caves. In a few days they will launch the "final push" and Marawi will be liberated.

The jihadists will be left with two options: fight and die a *shahid* or martyr, believing it is their ticket to paradise, or "live to fight for another day," as Demosthenes of Athens once said, by waving the white flag. Either way, the government forces will claim victory. But it is a pyrrhic victory, gained at a great loss to life and property, especially of noncombatants.

Without demeaning the gallantry of our soldiers and desecrating the memory of our fallen heroes, in my book the victors are the much vilified Maute-Abu Sayyaf extremists. Holding the nation figuratively hostage for more than 100 days is no small feat. They have proven that they are no longer the pushover ragtag group made up of the family members and other kin of the Dawla Islamiya founders, once driven from the towns of Butig and Pia-

gapo, but well-organized, disciplined and brave soldiers of Islam who "look at the barrel of the gun of the enemy and see paradise."

They have surpassed the fame (or infamy) of radical Islamist groups in Southeast Asia, like the Jemaah Islamiya of Indonesia and other Islamic State cells. They fought the might of the Philippine government, an enemy superior in number and armaments, supported technically by the world's greatest military powers like the United States, Australia and China. They were subjected to rote bombardment by modern fighter jets and Augusta attack and MG-520 helicopters to complement the barrage of ground mortars, howitzers and artillery fire. The Commander in Chief, in full battle gear complete with helmet and bullet-proof vest, traveled to the war zone to goad and inspire the soldiers to fight on, even if critics belittled the event as a mere photo op and PR tool. The most lethal legal weapon available in our constitutional armory, the martial law power of the presidency, was unleashed, plunging not only Marawi but the whole nation initially into an atmosphere of fear, uncertainty and inconvenience. The local Ulama Council issued a *fatwa* denouncing their occu-

pation and destruction of Marawi as un-Islamic, and the 41 local government units of Lanao del Sur issued a manifesto declaring the Mautes as enemies of the Maranao.

Yet against all these odds we saw them unbowed and sustaining their ferocious fighting spirit, determined to die fighting for the kind of Islam they believe in even if, in the process, they caused unimaginable destruction and mayhem to their kin and to the only known "Islamic City" in Asean.

The feat of the Maute-Abu Sayyaf extremists in Marawi will dramatically improve their prestige and ranking among radical Muslims worldwide. Consequently, oil funds and war materiel from the Islamic State will flow in to boost their crusade and recruitment campaign. Their mission of establishing a *wilayat* in Central Mindanao, if not a caliphate on the whole island, is no longer a dream but a stark reality that the government must seriously address. The IS menace is here to stay, and it is knocking on our doors.

Meanwhile, the heroism of our soldiers will forever be etched in Moro history. And to them our snappy salute.

Macabangkit B. Lanto (amb\_mac\_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was a Fulbright Fellow in New York University for his postgraduate studies. He has served the government as congressman, ambassador, and undersecretary, among other positions.

### COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO



## ONLINE NEWS

### 07 SEPTEMBER 2017

# China proposes intel sharing, counter-terror training with AFP

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** -- With terrorism now becoming a global threat, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is proposing intelligence sharing and counter-terror training with the Filipino military.

This was bared by AFP public affairs office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, in a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Wednesday.

He added that the Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines, Zhao Jianhua, is recommending that Chinese military units and Filipino special forces conduct joint counter-terrorism training.

Arevalo said such proposals are welcome as it would further beef up the capabilities of the AFP in the anti-terror field.

"Terrorism is a global concern, it knows no bounds, it knows no country, it knows no government, so it is essential for us to be united to be able to thwart this menace to society," he added.

And when asked on whether there is a time frame for PRC's proposal, military official said the matter is now being studied.

Also, Arevalo said China will donate 3,000 assorted rifles, including sniper weapons, to the AFP which will be delivered by the end of this month. (PNA)

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

# No efforts to be spared in tracking down Hapilon: AFP

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** -- No efforts will be spared to ensure the arrest and neutralization of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and his cohorts.

This was stressed by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo when asked on whether they are still keeping tabs on the whereabouts of the bandit leader.

"(Our latest intelligence reports) on Hapilon indicate that he is still in the main battle area and we have independent sources of information stating that he is still there," he added in Filipino.

And if they really intend to go out fighting as they previously announced, Arevalo said it will be very favorable to the AFP as military units will no longer be tasked or deployed to hunt him down.

Fighting in Marawi City broke out after troops attempted to arrest Hapilon and his allies last May 23.

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

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## China donates P5M to troops engaged in Marawi fighting

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** -- The People's Republic of China (PRC) has donated PHP5 million to troops engaged in the ongoing clearing operations against Maute Group remnants in Marawi City.

This was bared by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año in a statement Wednesday.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua handed the PHP5-million check to the AFP chief during simple ceremonies Tuesday at the Hall of Flags, General Headquarters Building in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Año expressed the AFP's appreciation for China's donation.

On his part, Zhao said China is slated to make a PHP15 million donation for the proposed rehabilitation of Marawi City before the end of 2017.

The money will be used for the delivery of engineering equipment needed in the proposed rehabilitation works.

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)**

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## DND acquires 'Sidewinder' air-to-air missiles

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** -- The Department of National Defense (DND) will acquire sufficient stocks of AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air missiles for the country's 12 FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" jet aircraft.

This was bared by DND public affairs office chief, Arsenio Andolong, in an interview with PNA Wednesday.

"Notice to Proceed was issued to Diehl Raytheon of Germany last Aug. 31. The ('Sidewinder' contract) is worth PHP1,016,734,088." he added.

Andolong declined to give the specific number and delivery dates of the missiles for security reasons. But he said the "weapons are sufficient for all of the country's FA-50s."

Andolong added the AIM-9s to be acquired are "all live rounds and fresh from the factory" meaning all of its sensors, rocket motors and warheads are brand-new.

With the pending delivery of the missiles, the FA-50s will now have another weapon for air-to-air combat aside from its internal 20mm cannon, making it more capable of protecting the country's airspace against airborne threats.

The AIM-9, which was developed by the US Navy in the 1950s, is one of the world's most reliable and successful air-to-air missiles.

It utilizes infrared homing for guidance and tracking and has a top speed of Mach 3 or three times the speed of sound. Its warhead weighs around 20 pounds and the missile has a length of 9 feet and 11 inches. (PNA)

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

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## **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | AFP appreciates China's donation for Marawi Soldiers**

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – “We express our appreciation to the Chinese government, through its Ambassador to the Philippines HE Zhao Jianhua, for their generous gesture of donating P5M in check to Filipino soldiers battling terrorists in Marawi.”

This was the statement made by Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, Chief, Public Affairs Office, AFP.

According to Arevalo, the amount will go a long way as it has already been deposited yesterday after the hand-over to AFP Chief General Eduardo Año and it now form part of the running tally of around P38.1M donations for the Soldiers killed or wounded in Marawi. **PAOAFP / MCAG**

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## **NEUTRALIZED | 10 BIFF members killed in airstrikes in Maguindanao**

**DATO SALIBO, Maguindanao (DWDD)** – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) neutralized ten (10) members of the Daesh-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in a series of airstrikes launched by the Joint Task Force Central in Maguindanao.

Elements of the 57th Infantry Battalion reinforced fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces – Moro Islamic Liberation Front (BIAF-MILF), who were engaging factions of the BIFF Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao at 10:28am last Sunday (September 3).

The military launched airstrikes that resulted in the deaths of 10 BIFF members and wounding an undetermined number on the enemy side.

Meanwhile, two BIAF-MILF members were slain in the said clash. They were identified as Butukan Bungayen, a.k.a. Mantukan Bungayen, and Jojo Sampayan.

“The airstrikes were employed by our operating troops with the end state of destroying the strongholds of terrorists, thus, depriving them of means to support their nefarious ploys, which are not limited to their IED-making activities and training of recruits,” said Major General Arnel Dela Vega, commander of the JTF Central.

Said operation ended at 2:20pm of the same day.

On Monday (September 4), Air Force assets launched series of airstrikes targeting BIFF lairs as MILF members continue to engage the bandits in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo.

“These combat operations are necessary measures taken by the MILF members against terror groups operating in Maguindanao. We laud the liberation front’s leadership for supporting the government’s drive for peace to thrive in Mindanao against terrorism, criminalities and drugs,” said Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

“We hope this call for peace would resonate and encourage more groups, organizations, and Filipinos to join the government in combating terrorism, and illegal drugs” added Lieutenant General. “It will not be limited only to combat operations but also non-combat and humanitarian efforts to prevent recruitment of our youth and other vulnerable sectors.” **WESMINCOM / MCAG**

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