

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
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

12 September 2017

Tuesday

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

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

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INQUIRER

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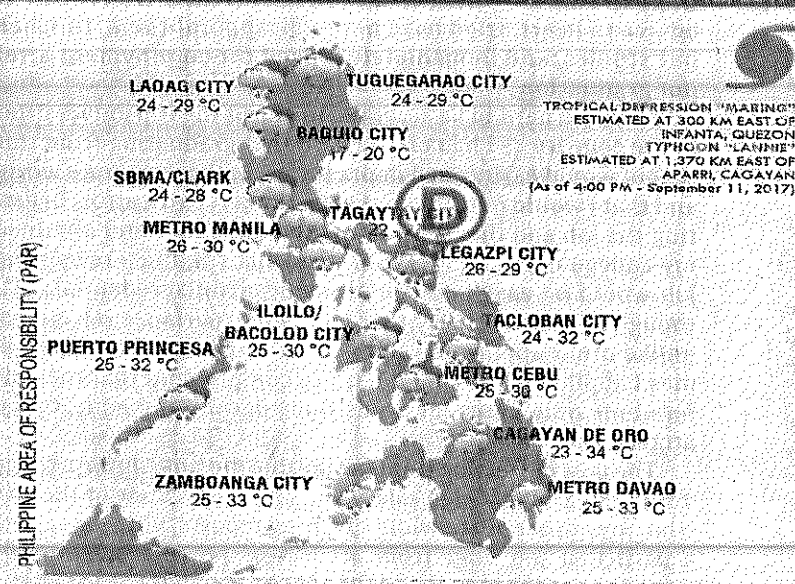


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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 | TUESDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SCALE IN KM

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "HARING"
ESTIMATED AT 300 KM EAST OF INFANTA, QUEZON

TYPHOON "LANNIE"
ESTIMATED AT 1,370 KM EAST OF APARRI, CAGAYAN
(As of 4:00 PM - September 11, 2017)

SUNRISE		SUNSET	
5:45 AM	6:00 PM		
MOONRISE		MOONSET	
10:54 PM	11:01 AM		
FULL MOON		LAST QUARTER	
SEP 8 7:03 PM	SEP 13 2:28 PM		
LOW TIDE		HIGH TIDE	
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR			
9:53 AM	1:31 AM		
0.25 Meter	0.96 Meter		

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms


	SEP 10	SEP 11	SEP 12	SEP 13	SEP 14
METRO MANILA	25-31°C	25-32°C	21-28°C	21-28°C	25-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-32°C	25-33°C	26-32°C	26-33°C	24-34°C
LAOAG	24-30°C	25-32°C	26-32°C	26-32°C	25-34°C
BAGUIO	17-21°C	17-23°C	26-31°C	26-32°C	25-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-30°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-33°C
TAGAYTAY	21-28°C	21-28°C	26-32°C	26-33°C	24-34°C
LEGAZPI	26-32°C	26-33°C	26-32°C	26-32°C	25-34°C
PUERTO PRINCESA	26-32°C	26-32°C	26-32°C	26-32°C	26-34°C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26-31°C	26-32°C	26-31°C	26-32°C	25-33°C
METRO CEBU	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-33°C
TACLOBAN	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24-34°C	24-34°C	24-34°C	24-34°C	24-34°C
METRO DAVAO	25-34°C	26-34°C	25-34°C	26-34°C	26-34°C
ZAMBOANGA	25-33°C	25-33°C	25-33°C	25-33°C	25-33°C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINASH

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



AIR 21

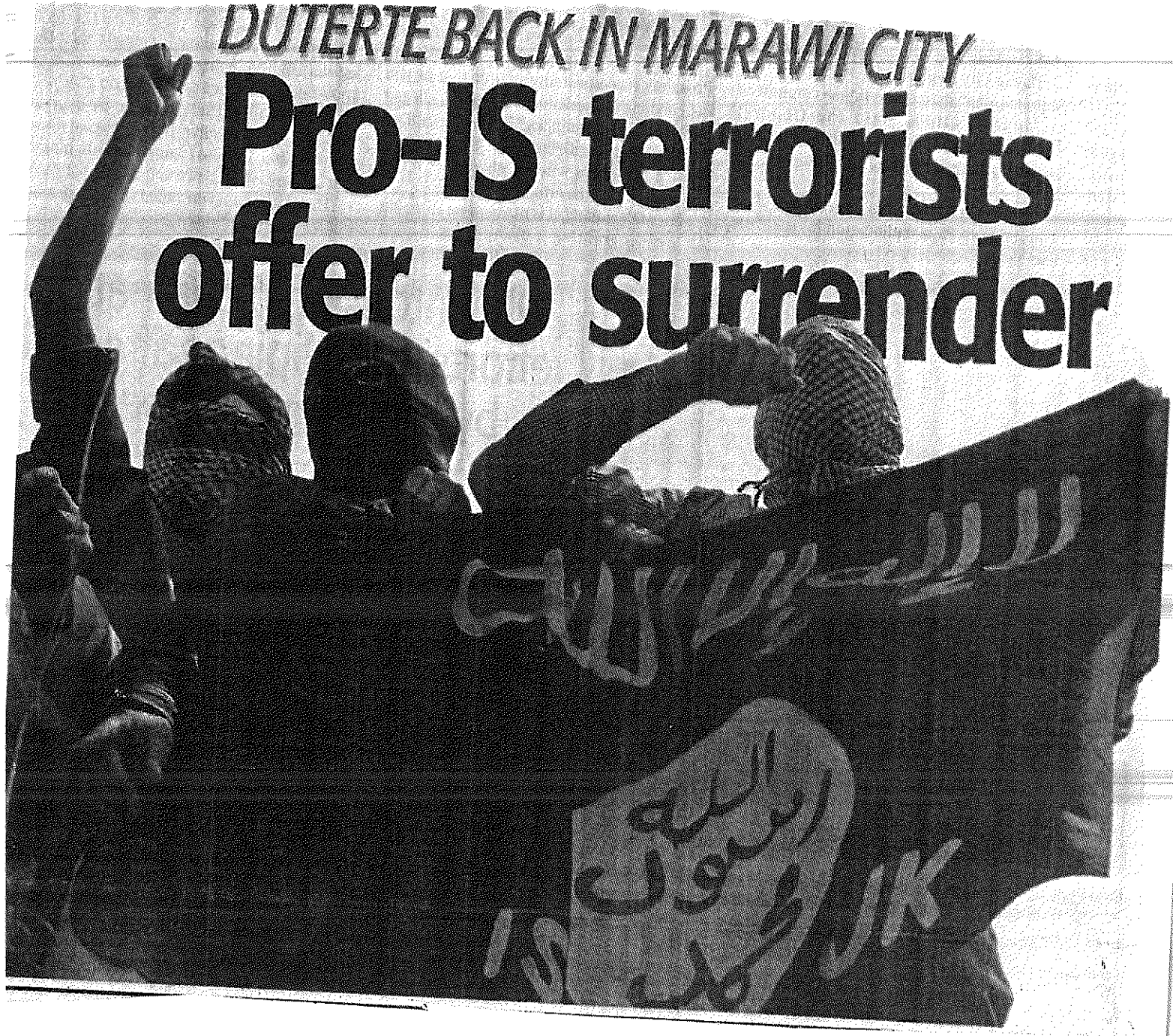
SAGOT NG PABALA NG!

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 1

DUTERTE BACK IN MARAWI CITY
Pro-IS terrorists
offer to surrender



Pro-Islamic State (IS) terror groups besieging Marawi City have sent surrender "feelers" to the military after three-and-a-half months of fighting, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Task Force Ranao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner said yesterday.

State forces have used loudspeakers urging militants to give themselves up, telling the estimated 50 to 60 fighters left in the city their lives would be spared if they disarm, change out of their black clothes and walk to a designated location.

"Hopefully, we will have surrenders within the next days," Brawner told media in a briefing. "There are feelers. Definitely, there are feelers," he added but he declined to elaborate.

President Duterte also visited embattled Marawi City for the fourth time yesterday to talk to the troops and to see cleared areas inside the battle ground, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana said Mr. Duterte handed out "goodies" and talked to the troops.

The militants' surrender offer came after a renewed,

if short-lived effort by Mr. Duterte to start back-channel talks with militants, with a former Marawi mayor Omar Solitario Ali to have acted as an intermediary.

Mr Duterte last Saturday ruled out the possibility of allowing rebels to flee in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages.

Brawner said the military has penetrated a "major defensive position" of the Maute Group in Marawi City after a "most difficult operation" last Sunday.

Brawner said the troops recovered 23 heavily guarded structures including a 5-storey building believed to be part of the enemy's final "defensive position" during the Sunday operations.

"It was a big accomplishment for our troops. One building has about five to seven floors, so they have to clear all of these

Turn to page 7

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floors before they can say that this building is cleared," Brawner said.

Brawner said the defensive line neutralized was where the terror groups "prevent any assaulting force from easily overcoming that terrain feature."

Two troops were, however, killed taking to 147 the number of security forces killed in the Marawi conflict. Some 655 militants and 45 civilians have been killed, according to figures released by the AFP.

Troops were engaged in running battles with the militant alliance, led by Abdullah and Omarkhayam Maute of the Maute group, and Isnilon Hapilon, a factional head of the Abu Sayyaf group and ISIS' so-called "emir" in Southeast Asia.

More than 20 structures were captured, many laden with booby traps. Some were commercial high-rise buildings that have been used as sniper positions to thwart government forces.

Brawner described the operations as "a big accomplishment considering the enemy established very strong defensive positions".

"We believe there will be more we will have to go through, but this was a major defensive position. We're not saying it's final, but it was one of the most difficult defensive lines that we have encountered during the entire Marawi siege," said Brawner.

While some areas of Marawi are seeing citizens return and shops and schools reopen, most of the city remains deserted. The city's center is a wasteland, pummeled by daily air strikes and ground battles.

The resistance of the militants has frustrated the more than 400,000 residents displaced from the area and raised questions about how relatively few Islamists took control of the lakeside town

and held significant parts of it.

"We are receiving a lot of questions: why is it taking too long for the government to recover this area?, It is really difficult to do urban fighting," Brawner added.

Speaking at the "Mindanao Hour" press briefing yesterday aired live on state television, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military offensive in Marawi "is on the final push."

Padilla said there will be no more negotiations with the Maute Group, which is still holding several hostages including a Catholic priest, noting "the end of the crisis in Marawi is near." Snipers were all over the area and they were armed with rocket-propelled grenades.

The hostages were not spotted during the major military push making the military believe that they are hidden in other structures.

"We received some reports that the hostages are being used for all types of errands, including assistance in creating the IEDs, but we are not saying that they themselves are experts in making the IEDs," said Brawner.

The military said the battle zone has been narrowed down to about 20 hectares, about the size of a small subdivision. Soldiers are aiming to finish the war within September.

"Our commanders told us we may be able finish armed conflict within 2 to 3 weeks so our fighters on the ground are trying their best to meet this. It's not a deadline but some sort of estimate by our commanders. Our troops on the ground are really working very hard to accomplish their mission of controlling the area, getting hold of the hostages, and neutralizing the remaining members of the Maute terrorist groups," said Brawner.

The Marawi City siege that started last May 23 prompted Mr. Duterte to declare

martial law in the entire Mindanao. Congress approved the extension of Duterte's proclamation until December 31.

US, Aussies continue support

The United States has been giving technical and logistics support to the Philippine military and on Monday announced it had deployed a Gray Eagle unmanned surveillance aircraft over Marawi.

Australia has also provided two P3-Orion surveillance planes and last week announced it would send more defense personnel to train soldiers.

"Compared to current surveillance platforms used in the region, the Gray Eagle has a longer flight duration which will enable a larger area of reconnaissance and surveillance," the US Embassy said.

Gray Eagle, manufactured by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drone.

It can endure 25 hours of operations, and has a service ceiling of 29,000 feet.

"Over the past three years the U.S. has provided the Philippines with assistance valued at over P15 billion, to establish better command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities for the AFP," the US Embassy said.

"Recent deliveries include a Raven tactical UAS and two Cessna-208B surveillance aircraft, as well as various munitions and weapons to support urgent defense and counterterrorism needs," it added.

The US has also committed P730 million to help in the rehabilitation work in Marawi City.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim announced the multi-million peso assistance for the recovery and rehabilitation of Marawi City.

Kim said the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has allocated the amount to help in emergency relief and recovery assistance for communities affected by the ongoing conflict in Marawi.

Kim noted the Philippines remains a partner of the United States despite Mr. Duterte overtures on an "independent foreign policy." The firebrand president declared "a military and economic separation" from the US in a state visit to China last year as he seeks closer ties not only with Beijing but also Russia.

"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," Kim said.

"We all look forward to the end of the crisis, and the end of the fighting and suffering. We have been and will continue to support the Philippine government's efforts to deal with the crisis," he added.

The US 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, he added.

USAID takes over

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.

The aid agency will support Marawi's longer-term stabilization and rehabilitation by jumpstarting livelihoods, promoting community dialogue, rebuilding resilient health systems, and offering skills training

and psychosocial counseling for youth.

Last July, Washington provided 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 US government has likewise committed to supply 6,500 tablet armchairs, which will be distributed to schools in Mindanao where displaced Marawi students are currently enrolled.

USAID said it 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.

The firefight in Marawi continues to displace some 360,000 people, who have sought refuge in evacuation centres or stayed with their relatives. As the crisis wears on, many evacuees have complained of lack of relief assistance and lost economic opportunities.

Late last month, the Joint United States Military Assistance Group delivered 1,000 M40 field protective masks and C2 filter canisters to the Philippine Navy (PN) through the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA).

The PN requested the gas masks in order to better prepare Filipino sailors and marines to respond to chemical threats as the fighting continues in Marawi.

The transfer was part of a series of ongoing transfers from the US military to multiple branches of the AFP through both MLSA and the security assistance program.

Through the MLSA, the AFP is able to receive select munitions and equipment from US military stock in an accelerated process reserved for allies and close partners of the US.

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TONIGHT

Page. 1

Junior Army officer behind 'recruitment?'

SOLDIERS BEING 'PAID' TO OUST PDU30?

AN alleged plot to stage a "power grab" or military coup against President Rodrigo Duterte has been reportedly uncovered by Malacañang with the recruitment efforts allegedly being made by a junior military officer identified with the previous administration.

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SOLDIERS...

From Page 1

According to a source who declined to be named for the moment due to the sensitivity of the issue, the junior officer has a rank of captain in the Philippine Army and a product of 'Batch 2006' of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). The suspect allegedly hails from Tarlac province and is commonly known as 'Kuya Popoy'. The suspect is allegedly busy talking to his 'mistah' from the academy and even offering them unspecified amount of money to induce them

to participate in a coup against the Duterte administration.

The source said there is a reason to believe there are more powerful figures behind 'Kuya Popoy' and who have been providing him with the money to pay off those willing to go along with the plan for a putsch.

The suspect allegedly made lots of money during the previous administration as allegedly evidenced by his owning a "multi-million" house and several fleets of luxury vehicles that cannot be explained by his meager salary as a member of the military.

The suspect's lifestyle is also reportedly now the subject of a discreet investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman.

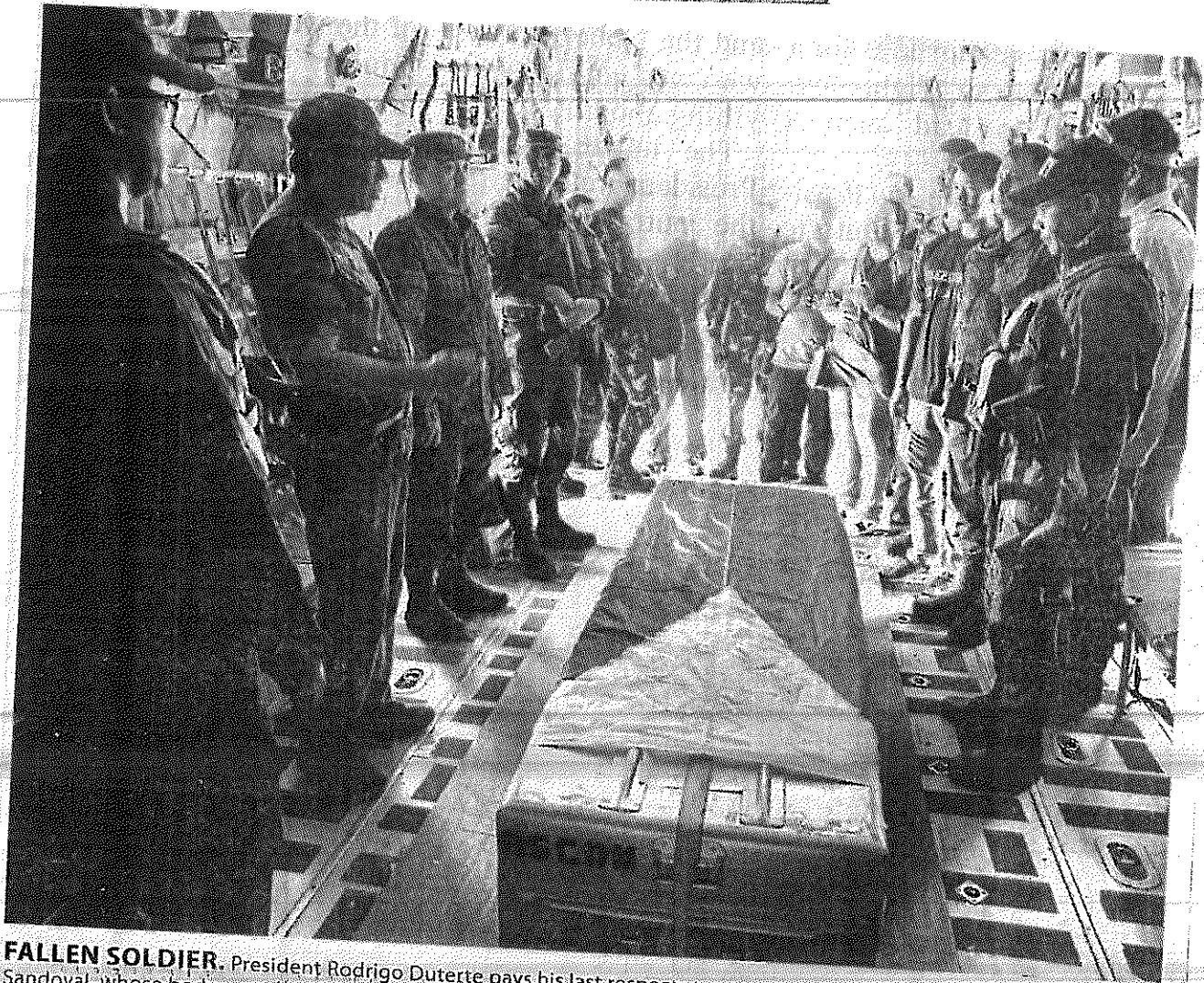
However, the source also averred alias Kuya Popoy is having "difficulty" in convincing members of the AFP to go against Pres. Duterte as they remained fully committed to supporting his policies and administration.

The source averred the military remains loyal to the Chief Executive primarily for personally showing his concern for their interests and well-being and for going out of his way to modernize the AFP.

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Manila Standard

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FALLEN SOLDIER. President Rodrigo Duterte pays his last respects to yet another fallen soldier Captain Rommel Sandoval, whose body was about to be transported to Manila from Cagayan de Oro City on Sept. 11, 2017. Sandoval, who was the Company Commander of the 11th Scout Ranger company, was killed in action while rescuing a wounded soldier in Marawi City. **Malacañang Photo**

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Pahina. 2

'Army captain' nasa likod ng 'recruitment?' BINUBUONG KUDETA BUKING NA

"NATUKOY" na umano ng Malacañang ang "binubuong kudeta" at ang nasa likuran nito na ang tanging layunin ay pabagsakin ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Ayon sa isang source na tumanggap ipabanggit ang pangalan, isang kapitan ng sundalo

na mula sa 'Batch 2006' ng Philippine Military Academy ang "kumakausap" ngayon sa kanyang mga naging 'mistah' para bumuo ng kudeta at pababain sa puwesto ang kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Napag-alaman pa mula sa source na "bata" ng dating administrasyon ang naturang sundalo na umano'y "nag-aalok" ng pera sa mga tauhan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines para sumama sa planong kudeta.

Naniniwala rin ang source na mayroong mga taong nasa likod ni 'Kuya Popoy' na siyang nagbibigay ng pera upang manghikayat ng iba pang sundalo na sumama sa plano nitong kudeta na magpapabagsak sa pamunuan ni Pangulong Duterte.

Kilala umano sa tawag na 'Kuya Popoy' ang naturang 'junior officer' na tubong Tarlac.

Pinaniniwalaang malaki ang naging pakinabang ni Kuya Popoy sa nakaraang administrasyon kung kaya't hanggang kasalukuyan ay buong katapatan nitong pinaaglingkurán ang mga

naging amo nito.

Isa umanong patunay ay ang mabilis na pagyaman ng sundalong ito sa kabila ng hindi naman kalakihang kinikita nito bilang kasapi ng AFP.

Napag-alamang maraming mamahaling sasakyan ang sundalong ito at napakaganda rin ng pag-aaring bahay kung kaya't lalo itong naging kahina-hinala.

Dahil dito, kasalukuyan na ring nagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon ang Office of the Ombudsman kay Kuya Popoy para matukoy kung saan talaga nanggaling ang yaman nito.

Sakaling mapatunayan ng Ombudsman na may "pallalim" na trabaho ang sundalo, malaki ang posibilidad na masampa-

han ito ng kaso kung saan ma-aari na rin itong matanggal bilang kasapi ng AFP.

Batay naman sa 'monitoring' ng Palasyo, "nahihirapan" umano si alias Kuya Popoy na manghikayat ng kapwa sundalo para sumama sa planong kudeta dahil todo pa rin ang suportang mga tauhan at opisyal ng AFP sa administrasyon ni Pangulong Duterte.

Ipinunto pa ng source na walang dahilan upang mawalan ng tiwala at suportang kasundaluhan sa administrasyong Duterte dahil na rin sa ipinakitang pagpapahalaga at suportang Pangulo sa interes at kapakanan ng mga kasapi ng Sandatahang Lakas.

RNT

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Marawi updates Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella (right) and military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. gives update on the situation in war-torn Marawi City.

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RECAPTURED President Rodrigo Duterte joins soldiers in a group photograph in war-torn Marawi City on Monday. Duterte visited the battlefield for the fourth time since fighting began on May 23, accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon. PHOTO FROM SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER GO

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AFP: No need for nationwide martial law

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said there is no need to declare martial law nationwide.

The military made the statement following President Duterte's warning to the communists not to take their rebellion to the streets or he would declare military rule nationwide.

"Do you think there is a breakdown of law and order? Is there rebellion happening in other areas, outside Marawi? To us, there is none," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman.

Duterte declared martial law in the entire Mindanao on May 23,

See AFP > Page B6

AFP

the day the Maute terrorist group attacked Marawi City. Following the declaration, the Communist Party of the Philippines ordered its armed wing, the New People's Army, to step up attacks on government forces. Formal peace negotiations between government and the communists were terminated by Duterte last July.

In issuing the warning last Saturday, Duterte said NPA rebels have become more active recently and

are often seen in public, attending assemblies or having meetings with left-leaning groups.

Padilla said it is the duty of the Armed Forces to give the President any information that may warrant the declaration of martial law "so that the commander in chief can make the relevant and appropriate decisions, if need be, when there is any threat or contingency needing such actions." "The primordia' consideration would be the national interest and the welfare of our people," added Padilla.

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Maute men sent surrender feelers: AFP

SOME members of the terrorist Maute Group that is fighting government forces in Marawi City have sent “feelers” they are prepared to surrender, after three-and-a-half months of fighting, the military yesterday.

The military has used loudspeakers urging the Maute men to give themselves up, telling the estimated 50 to 60 fighters left in the city their lives would be spared if they disarm, change out of their black clothes and walk to a designated location.

“Hopefully, we will have surrenderers within the next days,” Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the Task Group Ranao, told a news conference in Marawi City.

“There are feelers. Definitely, there are feelers,” he added, declining to elaborate.

President Duterte on Saturday ruled out the possibility of allowing the Maute remnants to flee in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages.

Troops were engaged in running battles with the Maute, led

See MAUTE ► Page B6

MAUTE

by Abdullah and Omarkhayam Maute of the Maute group, and Isnilon Hapilon, a factional head of the Abu Sayyaf group, and Islamic State’s so-called “emir” in Southeast Asia.

At least 20 structures were captured, many laden with booby traps. Some were commercial high-rise buildings that have been used as sniper positions to thwart government forces.

Brawner described the operations as “a big accomplishment considering the enemy established very strong defensive positions.”

While some areas of Marawi are seeing citizens return and shops and schools re-open, most of the city remains deserted. Its center is a wasteland, pummeled by daily air strikes and ground battles.

The resistance of the militants has frustrated the more than

400,000 residents displaced from the area and raised questions about how relatively few Islamists took control of the lakeside town and held significant parts of it.

“We are receiving a lot of questions: why is it taking too long for the government to recover this area?” said Brawner. “It is really difficult to do urban fighting.”

The fighting, which broke out last May 23, has resulted in the death of 655 Maute members, 145 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians.

The military believes about 40 to 50 Maute members are still inside the 500-square meter main battle area with about 300 structures. They are said to be holding around 30 hostages, including a priest.

In Manila, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military is expediting operations to clear Marawi City of Maute men and explosives they planted.

He declined to elaborate on the

operations but said ground commanders and their troops want to finish the fight the soonest time possible.

“It’s just a balance: doing it quickly so that it does not drag on but not at the expense of the hostages’ safety,” said Padilla on the need to balance the expedited operations and the safety of hostages and soldiers.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año recently said the armed conflict would not last beyond his retirement on October 26, and said operations are already in the “final phase, finishing touches.”

Duterte visited Marawi yesterday, the fourth time since the conflict started.

He was accompanied by, among others, Año, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Duterte again visited the troops in Marawi to check on their situ-

ation and boost their morale. He again distributed watches, relief goods, and even cigarettes which he said may be needed by some soldiers who are “under stress.”

He also visited the Grand Islamic Mosque where the Maute group had held some of its hostages, and the Mapandi Bridge, and posed for pictures with soldiers.

“Saludo ako sa inyo,” the President said during his “talk to the men” that was held after a command conference with the Joint Task Force Marawi.

Prior to the visit to Marawi, the President paid his last respects to Captain Rommel Sandoval, company commander of the 11th Scout Ranger Company, who was killed while rescuing a wounded soldier in Marawi City.

Sandoval’s body was to be flown to Manila from Cagayan de Oro City. — Victor Reyes, Jocelyn Montemayor and Reuters

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'Some Maute fighters ready to give up'

MARAWI CITY—Some Islamic State-linked militants besieging Marawi City have sent “feelers” they are prepared to surrender after three and a half months of fighting, the military said on Monday.

Security forces have used loudspeakers urging militants to give themselves up, telling the estimated 50 to 60 Maute fighters left in the city their lives would be spared if they disarm, change out of their black clothes and walk to a designated location.

“Hopefully, we will have surrenders within the next days,” spokesperson Col. Romeo Brawner told a news conference.

“There are feelers. Definitely, there are feelers,” he added, declining to elaborate.

The surrender offer came after a renewed, if short-lived, effort by President Duterte to start back-channel talks with militants, with former Marawi Mayor Omar Solitario Ali to have acted as an intermediary.

Mr. Duterte on Saturday ruled out the possibility of allowing rebels to flee in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages.

Troops were engaged in running battles with the Maute fighters.

More than 20 structures were captured, many laden with

booby traps. Some were commercial high-rise buildings that have been used as sniper positions to thwart government forces.

Brawner described the operations as “a big accomplishment considering the enemy established very strong defensive positions.”

The remaining Maute terrorists are now holed up in the last two remaining barangays they control in Marawi and government troops are fighting them “from room to room,” the military said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla said that government troops were trying to dislodge the ter-

rorists from the remaining 300 plus buildings they occupy in the city, which they overran on May 23.

“We’re entering the last and final stages of our fight in Marawi. That is being mentioned because the remaining areas where the rebels are holed up are getting smaller and smaller by the day,” Padilla told a press briefing in Malacañang.

“The fight has been in close quarter combat or close quarter battle. Our clearing is going from room to room in every building,” he added.

Padilla said the rebels initially controlled 96 barangays when they overran the city on

May 23 but the military was able to reduce this to just five barangays more than a month ago.

“And now, we’re down to about one-and-a-half barangay. Their area is now around one-fourth of a kilometer grid square,” he said.

“Unfortunately for us, unfortunately for them, in that small area remains among the strongest buildings. The buildings there are the biggest with the thickest [walls]. So, that is now our challenge,” he added.

Padilla said the area under the control of the terrorists had around 320 buildings.

“As we clear more buildings,

we deny them the opportunity to retake additional facilities or installations where they can hide. So, they are actually concentrated in only a few,” he said.

Meanwhile, Malacañang yesterday called for unity in the fight against terrorism as the world marked the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York City.

“The fight against global terrorism continues where nations have chosen to stand united against a common enemy espousing bigotry, fanaticism and anarchy,” said presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella.

—WITH REPORTS FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA, REUTERS INQ

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Heavy equipment, materials for Marawi rebuilding arrive

By John Paolo Bencito and Sara Fabunan

HEAVY equipment and materials started to arrive at the besieged city of Marawi as the battle against ISIS-inspired extremists already reached its “last mile,” the military said Monday.

“We are happy to inform you that the arrival of heavy equipment to be used by Task Force Bangon Marawi for its initial ground work, for the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi from the Armed Forces side engineering units are already there,” Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

“And we will be hauling a little bit more equipment to help and work with the local public works department to effect all of these needed movement on the ground or improvement of the ground. We already started doing the relocation area. *Halos tapos na po iyan, iyong pagtatayo na lang ng bahay*”

Earlier, Western Mindanao Command chief Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez said several payloaders and backhoes have already been pre-positioned in Lanao Del Norte province as reconstruction efforts have already started.

Galvez said the heavy equipment will be used for the building of temporary houses of the residents, particularly in Barangay San-

gongsongan who were displaced by the ongoing war which started on May 23 when Maute terrorists attacked the city.

Aside from the equipment, relief goods, hygiene kits, and toys also arrived for the evacuees, Galvez said.

On the 112th day of the Marawi siege, Padilla said that the fight against Islamic State-inspired terrorists already reached “its last miles.”

“The remaining areas were the rebels are held-up are getting smaller and smaller by the day. And as we clear more buildings, we deny them the opportunity to retake additional facilities or installations where they can hide. So they are actually concentrated on only a few,” the military spokesperson said.

“To stop the spread of terrorist ideology, we are working as one nation, pouring resources and infrastructure development in Mindanao while pursuing peace talks with the Moro rebels and pushing for legislation the creation of a Bangsamoro region within the sovereignty of the Republic. Let us continue to remain unit-

ed in our concerted effort to defeat terrorism,” he added.

Some 655 enemies have already been killed, while government force who had been killed totaled 145. Civilians killed is at 45.

As this developed, the United States deployed the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems to Mindanao for additional surveillance in support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines counterterrorism efforts.

Compared to current surveillance platforms used in the region, the Gray Eagle has a longer flight duration which will enable a larger area of reconnaissance and surveillance.

Over the past three years the US has provided the Philippines with assistance valued at over P15 billion, to establish better command, control, communications,

computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities for the AFP.

Recent deliveries include a Raven tactical UAS and two Cessna-208B surveillance aircraft, as well as various munitions and weapons to support urgent defense and counterterrorism needs.

The long-standing military relationship with the Philippines enables the US to respond quickly to the AFP's needs and to support the AFP's modernization goals.

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday vowed that the government would arrange free trips to Hong Kong for female soldiers assigned to the besieged city of Marawi, as he made his fourth visit to personally check the situation of the government troops who are on the frontline of the fight against terrorists.

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AFP, Palace see end to Marawi conflict

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

Malacañang and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Monday expressed confidence that the protracted fighting between government forces and members of the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur will end soon.

The fight in the besieged city

entered its 112th day yesterday.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the government is now entering the last and final stages of the fight in Marawi City as evidenced by how the remaining areas where the rebels are holed up are getting smaller by the day.

"And as we clear more buildings, we deny them the opportunity to retake additional facilities or installations where they can hide. So they are actually concentrated on only a few," he said.

According to Padilla, there are more or less 400 buildings in the besieged city that are waiting to be cleared and the AFP is being very careful in clearing buildings so the rebels will not be able to return there.

"Itong lugar na kaniyang pinag-iikutan, humigit kumulang (The area they are in is just around) one-fourth of a kilometer grid square or less na lamang (only)," he said.

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella, during the Mindanao Hour/Bangon Marawi press briefing Monday morning, said the fight against terrorism continues across the globe.

"In the Philippines, the fight against a Daesh-inspired rebellion in the Islamic city of Marawi is in its last miles," he said.

As of September 10, 2017, the AFP reported that a total of 655 local terrorists have so far been killed, while the number of civilians and government troops killed during the war remained at 45 and 145, respectively.

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The Manila Times

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Military pension fund requirement could hit P7T

INTEGRATING the military's pension system with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) could require raising as much as P7 trillion instead of just P4 trillion as initially estimated.

"We already did a study last year but the computation ... [is] a bit iffy as of now. What we only know is initially it would require P4 trillion and then it became P7 trillion," GSIS Chairman Francisco Duque 3rd told reporters.

"As of now, the study is ongoing. At the end of the day, [what is important] is really the funding requirement. So if there is no funding requirement, I don't think the shift to the GSIS will be happening anytime soon," he added.

"We can always solve such problem. The question really is if the programs will be sustainable. The P7 trillion requirement I think is already the higher limit of the computation. May be P4 trillion to

P5 trillion will be the lower limit."

The Finance department for its part said it was still completing a study that would determine the feasibility of integration.

"We don't have the complete information because we don't have the latest information up to even the end of last year. We are waiting for the new set of data to compete the study," Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd said.

Pensions paid to retired soldiers and policemen are sourced from the national budget, which the Department of Budget and Management claims is not sustainable.

In a fiscal risk statement for 2017, the Bureau of the Treasury noted that ballooning military pensions were a fiscal risk.

The problem was traced to "features" such as automatic pension adjustments mandated by the military's retirement rules.

MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO

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US DEPLOYS ANOTHER SPY PLANE TO MARAWI

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**
@dpazzibuganINQ

The United States has deployed another surveillance plane to help Philippine troops who are still fighting well-entrenched pro-Islamic State rebels in Marawi City for more than three months now.

The US Embassy in Manila said the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) was recently deployed to Mindanao to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines' counterterrorism efforts.

"Compared to current surveillance platforms used in the region, the Gray Eagle has a longer flight duration which will enable a larger area of reconnaissance and surveillance," the Embassy said in a statement Monday.

The US government recently turned over a Raven tactical UAS and two Cessna-208B surveillance aircraft, as well as various muni-



A soldier picks up a drone used to monitor the presence of the Maute group in Marawi City.—JEFFREY MAITEM

tions and weapons to support the counterterrorism operations.

"Over the past three years, the US has provided the Philippines with assistance valued at over P15 billion to establish better command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities for the AFP," the US Embassy said.

A few weeks after the military started operations against ISIS-allied rebels who occupied Marawi

City on May 23, the Americans lent a P3 Orion surveillance plane as ground troops suffered numerous casualties from snipers hiding in buildings.

Philippine security officials said US servicemen provided technical assistance but did not join fighting on the ground.

Aside from the military assistance, the US government also committed P730 million (\$143 million) for emergency relief and recovery assistance for residents

displaced by the conflict.

In the past two years, the US gave over \$50 million worth of equipment to the National Coast Watch Center to beef up its capability to protect the country's ports and coastline.

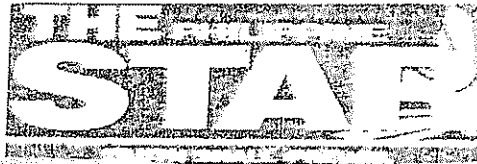
Philippine Coast Guard officer-in-charge Commodore Joel Garcia said this aid came in the form of communications and surveillance equipment, facilities, WMD detection equipment and training.

"It's not just the equipment but the facilities of the NCWC, regional coordinating centers in Cebu and Palawan, training centers in Palawan and sub-centers in Antique and Surigao. These are all support coming from the US government," Garcia said.

The aid, which seeks to boost the country's capabilities in patrolling and securing its ports and coastlines, comes from the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency.—WITH A REPORT

FROM JULIE M. AURELIO INQ

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US deploys surveillance drone in Mindanao

By **DING CERVANTES**

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga – The US has deployed a Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) drone to Mindanao to augment surveillance operations against terrorists, the US embassy said yesterday.

The embassy said that “compared to current surveillance platforms used in the region, the Gray Eagle has a longer flight duration which will enable a larger area of reconnaissance and surveil-

lance.”

“Over the past three years the US has provided the Philippines with assistance valued at over P15 billion, to establish better command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities for the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines),” it said.

The embassy said that recent deliveries include a Raven tactical UAS and two Cessna-208B surveillance aircraft, as well as various munitions and weap-

ons to support urgent defense and counterterrorism needs.

“The strong, long-standing military relationship with the Philippines enables the US to respond quickly to the AFP’s needs and to support the AFP’s modernization goals,” it added.

The US military and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) have provided surveillance assistance to Filipino forces in the early stage of the siege in Marawi City by the Maute group and a faction of the Abu Sayyaf.

The military said the area of operation in Marawi has been constricted to 20 to 24 hectares in the main battle area where the remaining Maute group continued to occupy mosques with more than 50 hostages.

President Duterte has told the military to spare the mosque and the civilian hostages from air strikes but ensure none of the Maute group leaders and members could slip out.

The National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) yesterday

said the US government has donated \$50 million worth of building and equipment to boost the government’s capability to securing its borders against the entry of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and terrorism.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) officer-in-charge Commodore Joel Garcia, who is also the director of the NCWC, said that they have so far received a total of \$50 million from the US, through its Defense Threat Reduction

Agency (DTRA).

Garcia said that the \$50 million was given by the US government over a period of two years to improve the country’s maritime security and law enforcement capability.

The US-DTRA built the NCWC main office located inside the PCG headquarters, two regional coordinating centers in Palawan and Cebu; sub-centers in Antique and Surigao and a training center in Palawan.

– With Evelyn Macairan, Roel Pareño

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Rody's surrender demand unacceptable — Reds

BAGUIO CITY – The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has rejected

President Duterte's demand for the New People's Army (NPA) to surrender first before peace talks can resume.

"This is unacceptable," the CPP said. "Does he really take the revolutionary forces for fools?"

The CPP said that the President, who earlier claimed having long-time friendship with the Left, "has lost all moral grounds to make such a demand," citing the NPA's declaration of a ceasefire on Aug. 19, 2016 that lasted close to 160 days supposedly as a response to Duterte's signed commitment to release around 500 political prisoners through an amnesty proclamation.

Duterte, however, "wasted the goodwill of the NDFP when it failed to fulfill its commitment and took advantage of the ceasefire to deploy his soldiers and

conduct military offensives," the CPP said, referring to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

The CPP, which claims to have absolute command over the NPA rebels scattered throughout Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, said that the people clamor for the NPA to mount more tactical offensives in the face of Duterte's tyrannical rule and triple war.

"Victories of the people's army inspire resistance amid widespread killings and the climate of fear imposed by the Duterte regime," the CPP added.

The CPP vowed that the NPA would launch tactical offensives to bring to account the Duterte regime and its soldiers and police for thousands upon thousands of Oplan Tokhang killings, the successive killing of peasants, national minorities and youths, military occupation of civilian communities, aerial bombings and shelling, the near-genocidal war against the Maranaos of Marawi, arbitrary arrests and detention and so on.

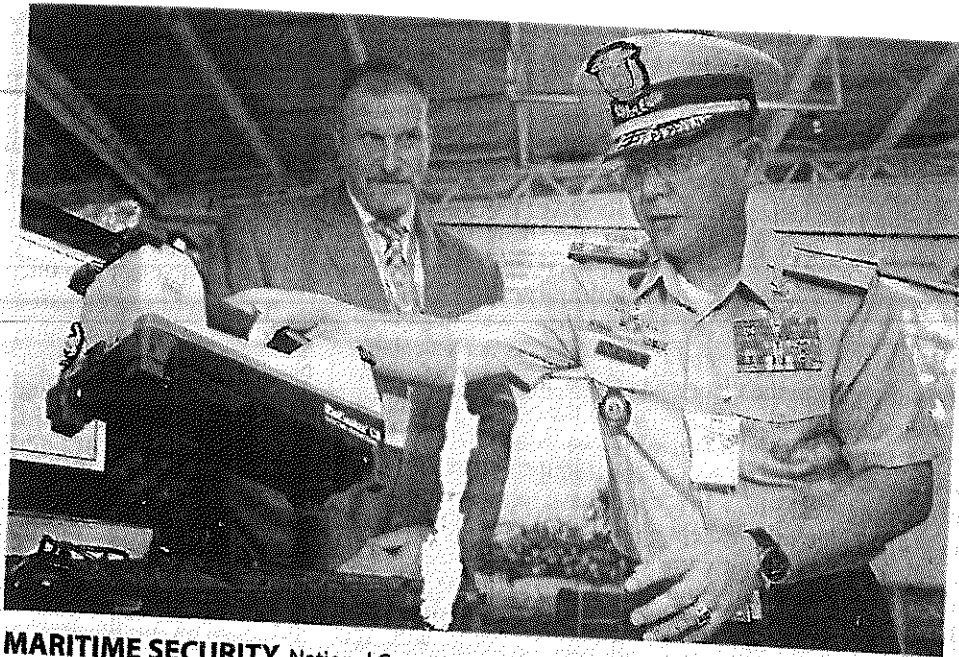
The group has always insisted that negotiations between the government and the NDFP can proceed and make progress even while the civil war rages. — **Artemio Dumlao**

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MARITIME SECURITY. National Coast Watch Center director, Commodore Joel Garcia PCG (right) together with Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the US Government Mark Sullivan present the upgraded communications and surveillance equipment Radioisotope Identification Devices to enhance the country's capabilities in addressing key challenges of maritime security and law enforcement against Weapons of Destruction during the opening of the week-long Joint Inter-agency Field Training exercises dubbed as: 'Bukluran Bantay Baybayin 01-17' which will be held on Sept. 11 to 15 in Manila, Cebu and Palawan. The event is in line with the upcoming anniversary celebration of the NCWS which was established Sept. 6, 2011 by virtue of Executive Order No. 57, series of 2011 to institute a central inter-agency mechanism for a coordinated and coherent approach on maritime issues and security operations towards enhancing governance in the country's maritime domain. **Norman Cruz**

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PMAYERS' LINKS TO DRUG SHIPMENT EXPOSED IN SENATE HEARING

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

The Senate inquiry into the P6.4-billion "shabu" (crystal meth) shipment from China has uncovered the participation of graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

The blue ribbon committee was able to tie up on Monday the background of some of the alleged key players in the shabu shipment and smuggling in the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Sen. Richard Gordon, committee chair, pointed out that some of the key players were from the PMA. "It's an old boys' club," he told reporters.

Gordon was referring to Teofilo Joseph Bacud, a certain Jack Cabalza, retired Col. Allen Capuyan, BOC Command Center chief Gerardo Gambala and former BOC Deputy Commissioner Milo Maestrecampo.

It was the father of customs fixer Mark Taguba II, who disclosed the identities of Cabalza and Bacud.

Bacud was the one who helped Taguba connect with contacts to help him facilitate the release of flagged shipments without BOC inspection.

Among these contacts were a certain Tita Nani and Jack, who Taguba said were part of the so-called "Davao Group," which allegedly facilitated smuggling at the BOC for a fee.

Taguba's father Ruben Jr., a former customs policeman, told Gordon that Bacud was a classmate of Jack whose full name was either Jack Baesa or Jack Cabalza.

"Colonel Capuyan knows (Bacud)," the older Taguba said, referring to retired Col. Allen Capuyan, assistant general manager at the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), who is also a PMA graduate.

Big Brother

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the full name of Jojo Bacud was Teofilo Joseph Bacud.

Taguba identified Capuyan as



Ruben Taguba Jr.



Allen Capuyan

PHOTOS BY GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

"Big Brother," who belonged to another group from which he had sought help for the release of his shipment flagged by the BOC.

Gordon showed text messages between Taguba and Tita Nani in which Capuyan was mentioned four times.

Taguba said he had met with Capuyan once in a meeting attended by Tita Nani to seek help for his shipment.

He said he gave Capuyan a check for P1 million through Tita Nani.

But Capuyan denied getting the check, although he confirmed meeting with Tita Nani and Taguba.

The MIAA assistant general manager said Taguba did not

speak much at the meeting and that it was Tita Nani who told him about Taguba's concerns.

Capuyan said he knew Bacud and last talked to him last week.

PMA underclass

"Jojo Bacud was an underclass and acquaintance way back at PMA being my battalion mate," he said.

Capuyan said he met Bacud again when he was assigned at MIAA while the latter was conducting customs intelligence gathering.

He said Bacud introduced to him Tita Nani and a certain Noel as Bacud's business partners in March.

Capuyan said his meeting for lunch with Tita Nani, Noel and Taguba was the first and last meeting he had with Taguba.

He said he submitted to the Department of Finance (DOF) a report on the shabu shipment, which he noted incriminated Taguba.

Capuyan said he knew President Duterte because he was assigned in Mindanao from 1997 to 2003 and in 2008.

The BOC Command Center chief, Gerardo Gambala, who is also a PMA graduate from Class 1995, said Bacud had a service contract with the BOC from January to June this year. He said Bacud was a former PMA cadet. INQ

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Protesters demand return of Marcos 'loot'

By **Matthew Reysio-Cruz,**
Julie M. Aurelio,
Vince F. Nonato
and **Jhesset O. Enano**
@Team Inquirer

Survivors of martial law and human rights campaigners marched in the rain on Monday to demand the return of the stolen wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his family, whose political rehabilitation by President Duterte was denounced by a Catholic bishop as a "shameful revision" of Philippine history.

From Elliptical Road in Quezon City, the protesters marched on Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City where supporters of Marcos and members of his family gathered to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Marcos placed the Philippines under martial law from 1972 to 1981 and oversaw widespread human rights abuses to maintain his grip on the country, with thousands of people killed, tortured or imprisoned.

He was ousted in the military-backed EDSA People Power Revolution in 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii three years later.

\$10-billion loot

He has been accused of embezzling up to \$10 billion from state coffers during his long rule.

The anticorruption watchdog Transparency International in 2004 named Marcos the second most corrupt leader of all time, behind Indonesian dictator Suharto.

President Duterte, an admirer of Marcos who has been accused of glorifying the dictator, granted the Marcos family's request to declare his birthday a holiday in his home province of Ilocos Norte.

Mr. Duterte stunned the nation in November last year by

allowing the remains of Marcos to be buried at Libingan ng mga Bayani despite widespread protests that the late strongman was unfit for that honor.

On Saturday, he pronounced Marcos a "hero" to the people of Ilocos, drawing a biting response from the Catholic Church, which stood up to the dictator throughout his iron-fist rule and led the bloodless uprising that toppled him from power.

"Duterte's action of giving honors to a dictator who caused great havoc in our country is a travesty of our national history, a shameful revision of the truth of our past," Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes said in a state-

ment on Monday.

Return all of the loot

Mr. Duterte said the Marcoses had offered to return part of their alleged loot, but Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos said the family must first reconcile with the Filipinos, especially those who were wronged by the dictator's regime.

"And if it is to be done, first openly confess and admit all those ... atrocities [and] corruption, be truly and publicly contrite [then] return and restitute all those ill-gotten wealth without any preconditions," Santos said on Monday.

He said peace could be achieved only when justice fi-

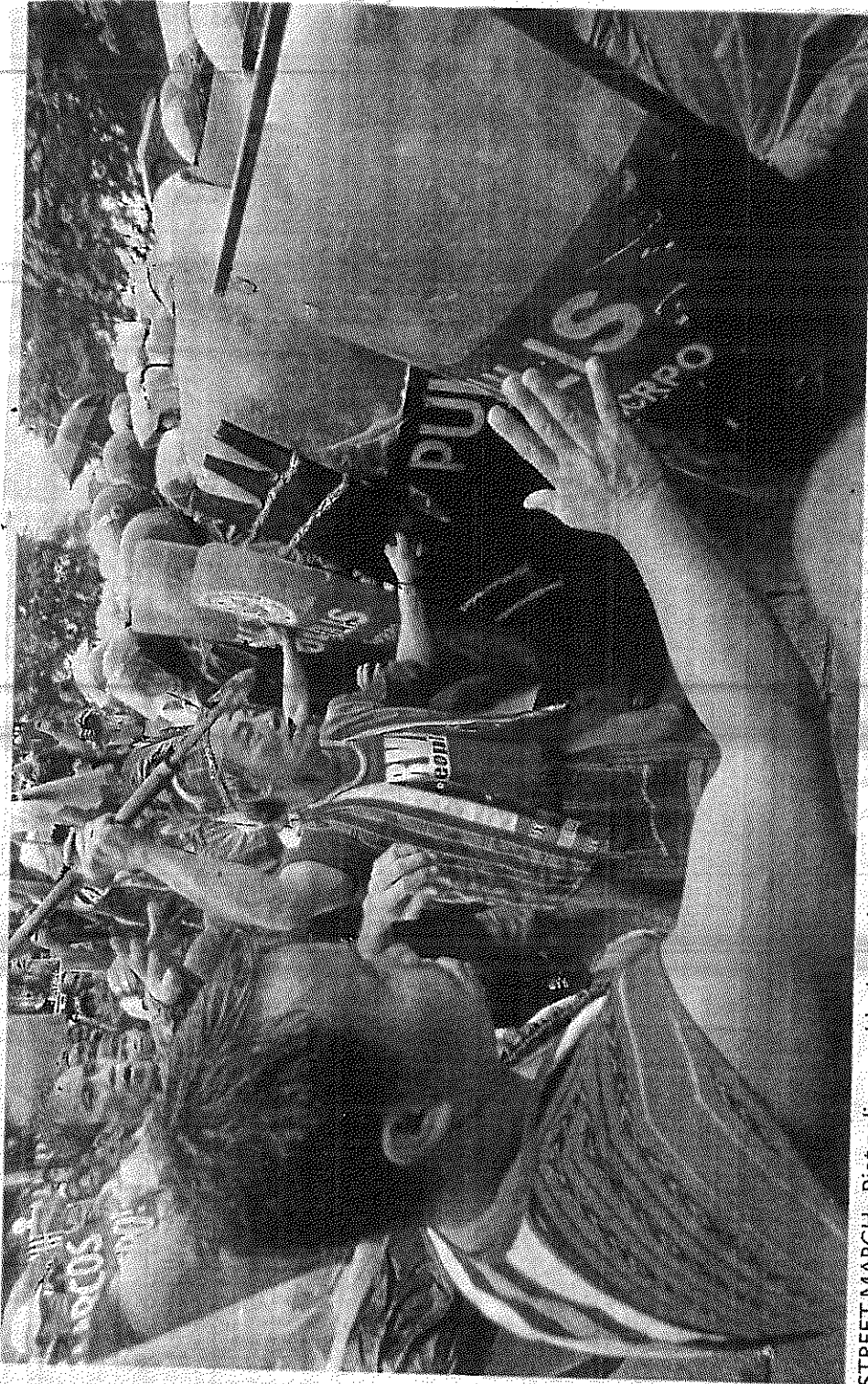
nally had been served to the thousands of victims of Marcos' martial rule.

Critics of Mr. Duterte in the House of Representatives lambasted the glorification of Marcos and attempts to revise Philippine history.

"We ourselves will be judged by history for what we have done," Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate warned in a privilege speech.

"I hope we don't reach the point where the next generations will remember us for disregarding history and revising the truth in exchange for money that belonged to us in the first place," Zarate said.

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STREET MARCH Riot policemen block members of indigenous groups and other anti-Marcos protesters who are marching to Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City, where the remains of the late dictator are buried. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

In a statement, Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao called Mr. Duterte a "loyalist President" and criticized him for "stomping" on the memory and lessons of martial law "by honoring" Marcos on his 100th birth anniversary.

National tragedy

Akbayan Rep. Tomasito Villarín said in a separate statement that the "Marcos centennial birthday is no cause for celebration but a national tragedy heaped upon us."

Villarín said Mr. Duterte's actions in favor of Marcos "reflects how the present administration has distorted our values and beliefs as Filipinos."

On Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, the protesters joined a caravan of 59 vehicles carrying members of cultural minorities from the Cordilleras, northern and central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Mindanao, and proceeded to Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Organizers estimated the number of protesters at 1,500, including at least 50 elderly citizens who survived torture in military prisons during the Marcos regime.

Jigs Clamor, deputy secretary general of rights group Karapatan, accused the President of "adding insult to injury" by ignoring the grievances of martial law victims and floating the idea of a compromise agreement with the Marcoses over their ill-gotten wealth.

Consistent stand

Gabriela Rep. Emmi de Jesus said Filipinos needed to make a consistent stand against the Marcoses, "especially now that President Duterte openly shows his support" for them.

At Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City, survivors of rights abuses during Marcos' rule called on fellow survivors to summon courage and tell their story.

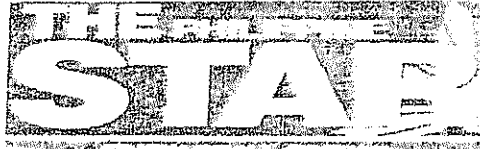
The small group, led by Bantayog Foundation and Claimants 1081, tied red and black ribbons around what the participants called a "living memorial" to the martyrs and heroes who fought the Marcos dictatorship.

Zeny Mique, Claimants 1081 executive director, called on young Filipinos not to allow themselves to be swayed by "fake news" about the Marcos family and their rule on social media.

"Do not believe fake news ... that keeps on twisting and revising history," Mique said. —WITH REPORTS FROM REUTERS AND AFP INQ

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30 years after, cases vs Marcoses still pending

By ELIZABETH MARCELO

More than a dozen criminal and civil forfeiture cases filed by the government against the Marcos family remain pending before the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan, 30 years since their filing in the late 1980s.

Based on data obtained by **The STAR** from the Sandiganbayan Judicial Records Division, 16 civil cases were filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) in 1986, 1987 and 1991 against the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, his wife, former first lady and incumbent Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos and several of their cronies.

The civil cases seek the return of ill-gotten wealth allegedly amassed by the Marcos family and their cronies during the martial law regime.

Sandiganbayan records show that nine of these cases have been dismissed in favor of the Marcos family, while seven remain pending.

Among the cases dismissed were the forfeiture of the assets of several companies owned by tycoon Lucio Tan, including Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery, Allied Banking Corp., Foremost Farms, Himmel Industries, Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings, Dominium Realty and Construction Corp. and Shareholdings Inc.

The PCGG sought the transfer of the assets of these companies to the government as they were allegedly acquired through illegal means during Marcos' presidency. The court dismissed the case due to insufficiency of evidence.

Also dismissed was the P11-billion civil forfeiture case that the PCGG filed against Armando and Al-

fredo Romualdez, brothers of Mrs. Marcos.

The court said the PCGG failed to prove that the Romualdez brothers' assets were illegally amassed using their connection with Marcos Sr. during the 20-year martial law regime.

Meanwhile, after more than 30 years, it was only last May that the Sandiganbayan ruled to proceed with a full blown trial of two of the eight civil cases filed by the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) in connection with the alleged misuse of coco levy funds.

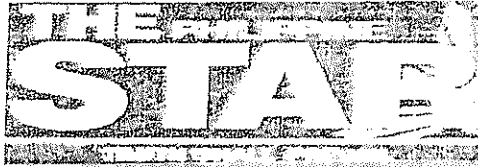
The court ruled to proceed with the trial of Civil Cases Nos. 33-B and 33-D filed by the PCGG-OSG against businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., former senator Juan Ponce Enrile and several other alleged Marcos cronies.

Civil Case No. 33-B refers to the disputed ownership over the Cocomark and the United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (Cocolife), while Civil Case No. 33-D covers the companies created through the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), including United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom) and 16 other mills.

During martial law, coconut farmers were made to contribute to the Coconut Industry Development Fund (CIDF) also known as the coco levy fund for the supposed development of the coconut industry and to give them shares of investments. The Supreme Court in several rulings said Marcos and his cronies including Cojuangco instead used the funds for personal profit, particularly in the purchase of United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and a majority stake in San Miguel Corp. (SMC).

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Gov't officials stay away from Marcos birthday rites

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Loyalists and protesters briefly clashed outside the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City while top government officials stayed away from yesterday's gathering at the tomb to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Among the officials invited by the Marcos family were President Duterte, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, several Cabinet members and other lawmakers.

"The activity was peaceful. No untoward incident happened," Philippine Army Public Affairs Office chief Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson said. The Army helped keep out gratecrashers at the event.

Among those in attendance were former first lady and now Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos

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and other members of the Marcos family, former president and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, Iraqi Ambassador Ahmed Al Kuwin and other close friends. Former Senate president Juan Ponce Enrile also attended the event.

While the celebration was ongoing, at least 200 anti-Marcos protesters and around 150 Marcos supporters wearing white shirts held separate rallies near the cemetery entrance.

Tiongson noted that even the rallies of groups supportive and critical of Marcos were peaceful as the event ended and the protesters voluntarily dispersed at around 11:45 a.m.

Media were not allowed to cover the birthday celebration where a mass was held at around 10:30 a.m. followed by eulogies and lunch at the Bulwagan Hall.

for our country. Never let those dreams fade until the day we have made them real," the young Marcos posted on his Facebook account marking his father's 100th birth anniversary.

All members of Marcos family led by Imelda Marcos and her grandchildren were present.

Robredo hits Marcos holiday

Vice President Leni Robredo hit yesterday Malacañang's declaration of Marcos' 100th birthday as a special non-working holiday in Ilocos Norte.

"What's there to celebrate? As if we are trying to forget

"I would say again that the President and the Palace exercise maximum tolerance for dissident opinions," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said. – With Perseu Echeminada, Helen Flores Paolo Romero, Alexis Romero, Artemio Dumlao

Former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., speaking at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, vowed yesterday to pursue the vision and dream of the former president.

The former senator also thanked Marcos supporters who came from various parts of the country to join the family in the landmark event.

"On my father's 100th birth anniversary, we celebrate the day, the man and his life. Let us be reminded of his dreams and his vision

Tiongson said the Marcos family requested that the event remain private, thus media were not allowed entry.

Only invited guests were allowed to enter the Libingan where the remains of the former president were laid to rest in November last year.

the sins they have committed against the Filipinos. As if we're trying to revise the story, the history, which is not right," Robredo said in an interview in Bulacan.

Robredo is facing an electoral protest filed by Marcos' son and namesake, former senator Bongbong Marcos before the Supreme Court, sitting as Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

Malacañang has declared Sept. 11, Marcos' 100th birth anniversary, a special non-working holiday in Ilocos Norte.

President Duterte, a close friend of the Marcoses, said he approved this upon the family's request, noting that he had no reason to refuse because the late dictator is revered in their home province.

Malacañang said anti-Marcos groups would be allowed to express their views and to hold mass demonstrations.

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POSIBLE, bakit 'ika-nyo?

Sa isang simpleng kaisipan, imposibleng maubusan ng ammunitions ang pinagsanib na puwersa ng ating kasundaluhan at kapulisan.

Ang sinasabing ISIS-Maute terrorists groups, bakit hindi rin sila nauubusan ng bala?

May posibilidad din na Maute terrorists group lang ito at hindi kasama ang puwersa ng ISIS. Mas delikadong kumalat pa ang gera sa ibang panig ng bansa kung talagang kasama dito ang puwersa ng ISIS.

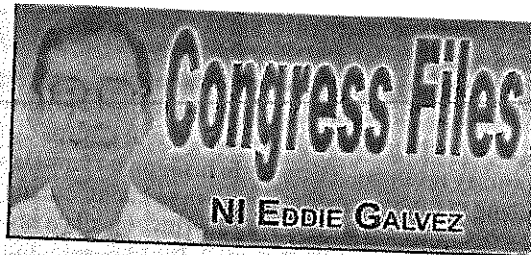
Hindi na rin dapat tumagal pa ang labanan ng mahabang panahon na nagsimula noong Mayo 23 at nagresulta sa pagkamatay ng 636 Maute members, 145 sundalo at pulis, at 45 sibilyan.

Ang sabi ni Armed Forces chief General Eduardo Ano hindi lalampas sa petsa ng kanyang nalalapit na pagretiro sa October 26, matatapos ang gera sa Marawi City.

Sana nga po, General! Sobrang pagod at lubhang nakakaawa na ang kabuhayan ng ating mga kababayan doon.

May mga naglabasang balita noon na 'di-umano pakana ng Liberal Party (LP) ang gera sa Marawi City.

May mga litratong ipinakita si Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre sa media larawan nina Senators Bam Aquino at Antonio



May nagpopondo sa Marawi siege

Trillanes at dating presidential political adviser Ronald Llamas sa kanilang pagbisita sa lugar bago ang gera.

E anak kamote, peke pala ang litrato ni Aguirre!

Pero 'wag muna natin alisin ang anggulo LP nga ang nasa likod ng gera sa Marawi City.

E sino ba sa ngayon sa akala nyo ang may kakayahang bungguin ang administrasyon Duterte?

Sa press conference ni dating Manila Councilor Greco Belgica, base sa "intelligence reports," may niluluto daw "kare-kare" ang LP para pabagsakin ang administrasyong Duterte.

Sina dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino, dating budget Secreatry Butch Abad, Trillanes at Llamas "doing the dirty works, spreading lies and destabilizing the government."

Ganito naman talaga ang kalakaran ng politika sa ating bansa. Kung sino ang oposisyon, siya ang kalaban. Diba?

Malas ng LP dahil sila lamang ang maaring mapagbintangan!

Bakit tumagal ng lampas 100 araw ang gera sa Marawi City?

Bakit hindi nauubusan ng bala ang Maute terrorists group?

Sino sa palagay n'yo ang nagsu-supply sa kanila ng mga bala?

Hindi lang ito ang mga katanungan para isipin natin bakit nga ba tumagal ang gera sa Marawi City?

Wala tayong ibang dapat gawin kundi ipanalangin sa ating Panginoong Jesus na nawa'y magkaroon na ng katahimikan hindi lang sa Marawi City kundi sa buong Pilipinas!

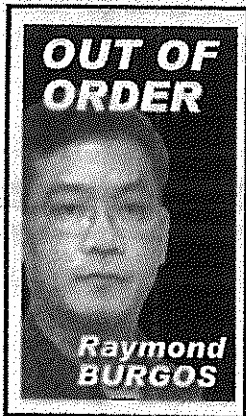
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September 2017



Pahina.

Hindi mamatay-matay na isyu ng yumaong Pangulong Marcos



Kahapon ay ginunita ng pamilya Marcos ang ika-100 kaarawan ng yumaong pangulo at diktador na si Ferdinand Edralin Marcos na nakahimlay sa Libingan ng mga Bayani sa Fort Bonifacio.

Pinangunahan ni dating First Lady at ngayo'y Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Romualdez Marcos at ng kanyang mga anak na sina Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos at dating Senador Bongbong Marcos ang sentenaryo ng kapanganakan ni Apo Marcos sa pamamagitan ng isang Banal na Misa at maikling programa na nagtapos sa isang

pananghalian sa LNMB

At habang nagkakasayahan ang mga Marcos at kanilang mga bisita, sa labas ng LNMB ay nagtipun-tipon ang mga tagasuporta ni Marcos at mga militante na kontra sa pagkakahimlay sa mga labi ng diktador sa mga Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Gaya ng inasahan, mas maingay ang mga militante sa pagkondena sa mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao noong panahon ng diktadura at ang bilyong pisong halaga ng pera at mga ari-arian na ninakaw ng pamilya Marcos na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa naisasauli sa bayan.

Kamakailan ay inihayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na handa nang isauli ng pamilya Marcos ang ilang toneladang ginto bilang bahagi ng settlement ng mga Marcos sa pamahalaan kapalit ng immunity mula sa mga posibleng kaso pang-haharapin.

Kasabay halos nito ang executive order na nagdedeclarang public holiday sa buong lalawigan ng Ilocos Norte ang Setyembre 11 na kapanganakan ng yumaong Pangulong Marcos na nagsimula kahapon.

Kung hanggang ngayon ay hindi mamatay-matay ang isyu ng tungkol sa yumaong diktador na si Marcos, ito ay sa dahilang patuloy na pagtangi ng pamilya Marcos na mayroon silang mga ill-gotten wealth at patuloy ring pagtangi na may malawakang paglabag sa karapatang pantao noong panahon ng Batas Militar.

At dahil dito ay tumatangging magbigigay ng public apology sina Imee at Bongbong para sa mga kasalanan ng kanilang ama sa sambayanang Pilipino dahil nga sa pananaw nila ay walang kasalanan ang yumaong diktador.

Sa tingin ko nga ay baka nanalo sa pagka-bise presidente si Senador Bongbong Marcos noong 2016 kung naging mapagkumbaba ito at nagpahayag ng public apology sa mga kasalanan ng diktadurang Marcos bago pa mang nagsimula ang kanyang vice presidential campaign.

Ang problema nga lang ay hanggang ngayon ay pilit pa ring itinatangi ng pamilya Marcos na nagkaroon ng malawakang paglabag sa karapatang pantao noong Martial Law kung saan kabilang ang 10,000 human rights victims na nakuha ng kumpensasyon nang maipasa ang batas noong panahon ni dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino.

Nasa kamay ng mga Marcos ang closure sa isyu ng human rights violations at mga nakaw na yaman at mangyayari lamang ito kung may pag-amin sa kanilang bahagi at pag-isyu ng public apology kasabay ng pagsasauli ng mga ninakaw na yaman kabilang na ang sinasabing tone-toneladang ginto na puwedeng ipambayad sa ating utang panlabas.

Kung magkakagayon ay doon lamang mamatay ang isyu sa yumaong diktador na si Ferdinand Edralin Marcos.

September 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. All

After Marawi, where will Islamic State strike?



Ricardo Saludo

DIPLOMASIA

WITH the Marawi conflict in southern Philippines coming to an end, what next for Islam-driven extremists in Southeast Asia?

One easy answer: more Marawi. Not another attack on the devastated city in central Mindanao. Rather, turning the mammoth propaganda value of the extremist siege, with cell-phone videos, TV news clips and war stories galore, to extol IS-driven bravery, ferocity and sacrifice, to raise funds and fighters for the caliphate.

Each and every one of the 653 terrorists killed in Marawi as of last Thursday, and dozens more to die in the final assault by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), will be extolled as martyrs in the eyes of kin, kith and community. And it would be no surprise if every dead terrorist spurs two youths to join the IS-driven Maute, Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

IS financiers, as well as potential recruits would be shown battle footage, especially AFP troopers pinned down or picked off by terrorist snipers, Catholic churches demolished and burned, Christian images desecrated and destroyed, and money and valuables looted in Marawi. Of course, the almost four-month siege

shows the potency of the terrorist force. So, funders get immense bang for their buck, and vice versa for fighters.

Already, IS-driven groups have staged sporadic attacks, killings and kidnappings in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which encompasses Muslim-majority provinces and cities from Lanao del Sur, whose capital is Marawi, all the way to Sulu and Tawi-tawi islands in the far west.

The AFP is mounting offensives in selected terrorist lairs, and giving artillery and other support to the Moro Islamic Liberation Force (MILF), the Philippines's largest rebel group. The MILF has attacked the BIFF, which splintered from it when it signed a peace agreement with the government in 2014, giving up its secessionist goal.

In sum, the IS-driven terrorist rebellion in Mindanao continues, with the Marawi siege used for propaganda to recruit fighters and raise funds.

Now, the Buddhist front

LOOKING elsewhere in Southeast Asia for Muslim grievances to fuel

caliphate aspirations, the IS eye will likely turn to the decades-long persecution and violence inflicted on Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar's Buddhist Burmese majority in its northwestern Rakhine State, bordering Bangladesh. A remnant of British colonial rule over the Indian sub-continent, the Rohingya are denied Myanmar citizenship, but barred from going back to their ancestral homeland in Bangladesh.

The animosity of Burmese toward the Rohingya is so entrenched that even State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, for all her Nobel-awarded rights advocacy, did not denounce the communal conflict, which have led to countless deaths and driven thousands of Rohingya to brave sea journeys in rickety boats in search of peace.

That sounds like a cause Muslim fighters can't refuse, and indeed, since October, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa) has launched attacks against police and army units. Arsa assaults intensified late last month, with an estimated 1,000 killed, 30,000 people displaced and 300,000 Rohingya driven to Bangladesh by the army counteroffensive.

Going further south, another conflict surely on IS radar festers along the Thai-Malaysian border. "The Malay-Muslim separatist insurgency in Thailand's south has little in common with jihadism, but persistent instability could provide openings for foreign jihadists who thrive on disorder," the International Crisis Group think tank warned.

Some 7,000 have been killed in fighting since 2004. With Malaysia brokering, Thailand's ruling junta

has held talks with a coalition of militant groups. But there are doubts if the insurgent leaders in dialogue control the fighters on the ground. And with no junta concessions on the cards so far, there are no great hopes for peace anytime soon.

As for Malaysia and Indonesia, these Sunni-majority, Muslim-ruled nations continue to be rich recruiting grounds for IS fighters, and possibly, some fund-raising among Islamist quarters. IS would probably avoid mounting attacks, and not only to avoid crackdowns under stringent colonial-era internal security laws.

The bigger strategic reason is to avoid turning Malaysians and Indonesians against their Islamist parties, which actually wield decent political power and could win more. The 72-year-old Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS, by its Bahasa initials) has 14 seats in Parliament. It rules Kelantan State in the north, has 14 of 32 seats in Terengganu, just three short of the country's ruling Barisan Nasional coalition; and is part of the opposition Pakatan Rakyat coalition ruling two more states.

In Jakarta, meanwhile, conservative Islam scored a double victory, with the blasphemy conviction of its erstwhile governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the first Christian chief of the 10-million-strong capital city in half a century; and the victory of Anies Baswedan, backed by the hard-line Islamic Defenders Front (FPI, by its Bahasa initials). The party has also boosted its nationwide clout at the expense of the moderate Muslim group, Nahdlatul Ulama.

Plainly, there is much to lure IS to Southeast Asia.

ONLINE NEWS

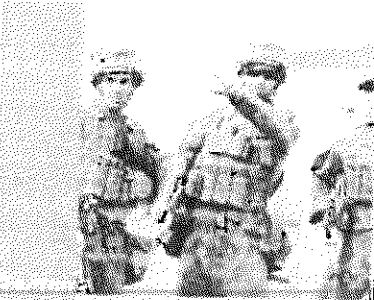
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NO INTERVENTION | AFP capable of dealing with Daesh-inspired terrorists in the PHL

Written by: Alvin Santiago | [View all posts by Alvin Santiago](#)

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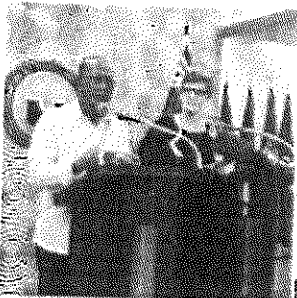


File Photo

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Philippines does not need the direct intervention of any “foreign armed forces” in dealing with Daesh-inspired terrorists in the country.

According to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have enough force to deal with any terrorist threat.

The secretary made the statement after his meeting with Australian Defense Minister Mariss Payne last Friday, September 8, at the Department of National Defense in Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City.



In connection with this, the secretary is thankful to the support given by Australia in the aspect of equipment and technical assistance which would be a big boost to the anti-terrorism campaign of the government.

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

Meanwhile, according to Australian Defense Minister Payne, they have troops in the Middle East helping fight Daesh (ISIS) and they see no problem in sending troops in the Philippines if requested.

Lorenzana added that the country would welcome the sending of Australian troops in the country, but not fight against Maute and other terror groups, but to train the AFP on information gathering and information analysis.

Defense Minister Payne assured the Philippines that they are ready and willing to expand the military cooperation between the two countries. **AES / ALS**

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

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

2 soldiers killed in latest push in Marawi battle area

From Rappler (Sep 11): 2 soldiers killed in latest push in Marawi battle area

This brings the death toll in Marawi City to at least 147



URBAN WARFARE. File photo of Army Scout Rangers conducting clearing operation in Marawi City. Photo by Bobby Lagsa/Rappler

MARAWI CITY Philippines — **Two soldiers were killed on Sunday, September 10, in close-quarter battles with local terrorist groups in Marawi City, according to Joint Task Force spokesperson Colonel Romeo Brawner.**

They were shot while conducting a major operation in the heart of the battle area to clear remaining strongholds of the local terrorist groups. It was Day 111 of the war. (READ: [Marawi battle zone: Urban warfare challenges PH military](#))

Four others were also wounded in the push to liberate Marawi from terrorist groups linked with international terrorist network Islamic State (ISIS).

Their deaths bring the death toll in Marawi City to at least 147. Over 600 terrorists have been killed. (READ: [Scuba diving terrorists? Troops guard Marawi lake](#))

The war in Marawi City erupted on May 23 when fighters from the [Maute Group](#) and the [Ahu Savvaf Group](#) joined forces in an attempt to seize the city. Leaders of both groups pledged allegiance to ISIS.

The battle area has been narrowed to [20 hectares](#) but the military expects intense clashes as they close in on the terrorists and their hostages.

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/181744-army-killed-marawi>

Posted by [Retired Analyst](#) at 12:56 AM

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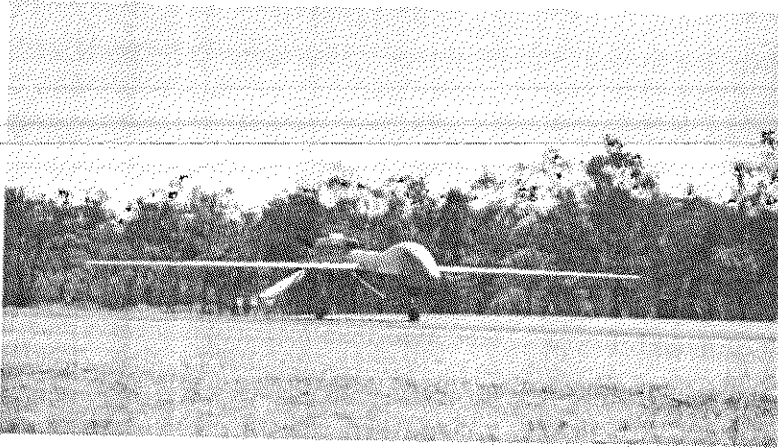
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U.S. increases surveillance support to PH military

From Rappler (Sep 11): U.S. increases surveillance support to PH military

'The United States deployed the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to Mindanao,' the US embassy says in a statement



The United States has increased surveillance support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as clashes rage on in Marawi City.

"The United States deployed the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to Mindanao for additional surveillance in support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) counterterrorism efforts," the US embassy said in a statement on Monday, September 11.

The Gray Eagle UAS a drone that has a longer flight duration, meaning it can patrol a larger area.

The US embassy said it has provided the Philippine military with assistance totalling at least P15 billion in the past 3 years alone "to establish better command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities for the AFP."

These include a Raven tactical UAS and two Cessna-208B surveillance aircraft, among other munitions and weapons.

"The strong, long-standing military relationship with the Philippines enables the US to respond quickly to the AFP's needs and to support the AFP's modernization goals," the US embassy said.

The Philippines and the US are treaty allies. The US has been assisting the Philippine military in its counterterrorism efforts. They also conduct regular war games.

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/181757-us-increased-surveillance-support-philippine-military>

Posted by Retired Analyst at 12:52 AM

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