

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

NEWS CLIPPINGS

16 September 2017


Saturday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

16 SEPTEMBER 2017

Sandigan OKs bail for Jingo in 'pork' case



Entire Caloocan City police force sacked

Palace: Congress may restore CHR budget

Only new chief, deputy installed

N. Korea fires 2nd missile over Japan

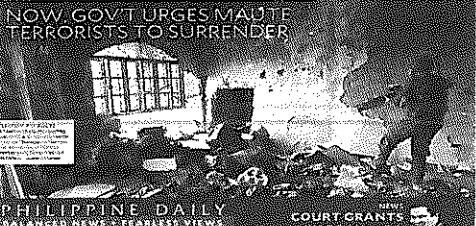
'Martial law on Sept. 21 a remote possibility'

Scores hurt in London tube terror attack

CHR unfazed, hits killing of teens

MMDA exec rides illegal habal-habal to beat traffic

NOW, GOVT URGES MAUTE TERRORISTS TO SURRENDER



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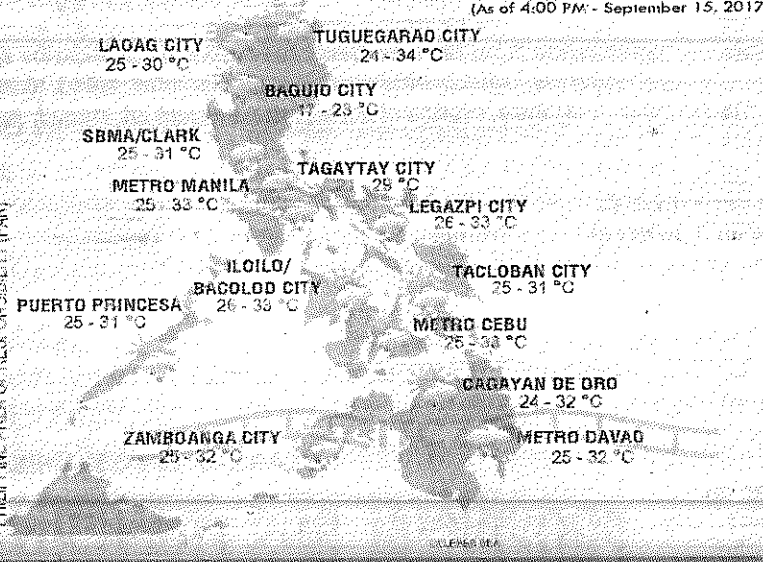




PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEW

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 | SATURDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO
(As of 4:00 PM - September 15, 2017)




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:45 AM	5:57 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:46 AM	2:54 PM
LAST QUARTER SEP 13 2:06 PM	NEW MOON SEP 23 1:30 PM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 2:34 PM 0.05 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 5:33 AM 1.17 Meter


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

METRO MANILA 26 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY 21 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN 25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAD 24 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI 26 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG 25 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C
BAGUID 16 - 23 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD 25 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA 25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 33 °C	




DZRH NEWS TELENET


MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM



PILIPINAS HD



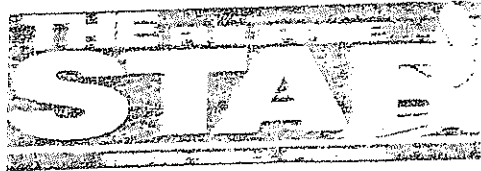
AIR 21



SERYO NG PAMBATA

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

16 September 2017



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Entire Caloocan City police force sacked

Only new chief, deputy retained

By **NON ALQUITRAN** and **REY GALUPO**

Last month at the Police Service anniversary, the Caloocan Police received an award as the Best City Police Station.

Yesterday, the entire city police force was sacked, with only the newly installed chief and his deputy spared, following the killings of teenagers and a break-in and robbery by city policemen.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Oscar Albayalde ordered the relief and retraining of the sacked police personnel.

The order came a day after members of the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 4 raided an elderly woman's home and reportedly stole money and other valuables in an incident captured on closed circuit television camera.

Albayalde said some 1,200 personnel of the Caloocan Police would undergo retraining and reorientation for 45 days before being reassigned to

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other police units, not necessarily back to Caloocan City.

Only Caloocan City Police chief Senior Supt. Jemar Modequillo and his deputy for administration, Chief Insp. Ilustre Mendoza, were retained.

Modequillo replaced Senior Supt. Chito Bersaluna on Sept. 5, following widespread outrage over the killing of 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos on Aug 16.

Mendoza, on the other hand, had a good track record as police administrator and chief of the investigation unit.

"We will start with the city's police precincts 2 and 7," Albayalde said.

The NCRPO's regional public safety battalion, a combat-trained unit, would temporarily replace all personnel in Caloocan's headquarters and seven precincts.

There are about 3,500 policemen in the entire Caloocan Police force. "This (reshuffle) will be done in batches," Albayalde said.

It is the first time an entire city police unit has been relieved of its duties since President Duterte unleashed his bloody crackdown against illegal drugs 15 months ago, a campaign that has killed thousands of Filipinos.

The move comes amid intense scrutiny of police activities in Caloocan City in the wake of the killing of Delos Santos in what police said was an anti-drugs operation.

His lawyers and family said he was murdered in cold blood. The three policemen involved in the killing claimed Delos Santos fired at them and they acted in self-defense.

The Department of Justice has started an investigation based on the murder and torture complaint filed against the Caloocan policemen allegedly linked to the killing of Delos Santos.

The Internal Affairs Service (IAS) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) has set the hearing

on summary dismissal proceedings against the policemen.

Another teenager, Carl Angelo Arnaiz, suffered a similar fate. The 19-year-old was accused of trying to rob a taxi driver and shooting at police who tried to arrest him. The taxi driver said on Sunday that he saw him alive in the custody of the Caloocan police.

Cops, robbers

Some 13 policemen, some in civilian clothes, were seen in security video of a robbery that was uploaded on social media and went viral.

Albayalde ordered the relief of the entire personnel of the Caloocan Police community precinct 4 after a woman complained that 13 policemen and two police assets barged in her house and ransacked her belongings last Thursday.

CCTV footage purportedly showed the policemen robbing the house during an alleged drug raid.

This angered the PNP leadership, according to Albayalde who immediately issued orders to relieve the Caloocan precincts.

"From what we have seen this has been done or will continue to be done by others so it is best to implement this preemptive measure to avoid similar incidents," Albayalde told reporters.

IAS Inspector General J. Fegar Triambulo said there were violations committed by the Caloocan policemen including use of a minor captured on the house's surveillance camera stealing wristwatches and a cellphone.

A man with a physical disability said to be a police officer was also with the group armed with a firearm and clad in a police vest.

"That is a big violation in police operational procedures," Triambulo said.

Triambulo said the policemen could also be held fi

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ther liable if it is proven they entered the house without a search warrant.

The 13 policemen were identified as Police Officers 1 Ariel Furlo, Marvin Poblete, Sherwin Rivera, Jay Gabatu, Sahabane Sampurna, Rene Llanto, Louie Serrano, Jaypee Talay, Ronelio Julaton, Jay-R Sabangan, Jaime Natividad, Joey Learnan and a certain PO1 Miguel.

They were charged with robbery and trespassing, Modequillo said.

Modequillo said they have identified the boy and the police asset who accompanied the police in the raid but withheld their names. He did not say if they would also be charged.

Mendoza said precinct commander Chief Insp. Timothy Aniwang would be facing administrative charges for command responsibility over his men. Team leader Senior Insp. Warren Peralta was included in the criminal charges, he said.

Drastic measure

Albayalde justified the reshuffle of the Caloocan Police.

"The reshuffle is a drastic measure but we have to do this to keep them away from their sphere of influence and prevent them from involvement in criminal activities in the future," Albayalde said.

"It is not farfetched that they would follow the bad example of those involved in the killings and other illegal activities," he added.

Albayalde gave assurance the functions of the Caloocan police would not be affected by the reshuffle.

"The delivery of public service would not be affected due to the reshuffle because the police officers relieved would be replaced by responsible policemen to oversee the peace and order in the city," he said.

However, some Caloocan policemen expressed dismay over Albayalde's order to relieve the entire city police force.

"We are saddened by this development. It's like punish-

ing the whole police force for the wrongs committed by a few scalawags. But we will abide by the wisdom of the NCRPO chief," one of the policemen said.

A police official said the PNP leadership is asking for too much from them.

"If everyone else is relieved that would grossly affect the whole organization because those who will come in don't have any idea how things are done here," he said.

Another police official complained it would be inconvenient for him to travel outside Metro Manila if ever he would be reassigned elsewhere.

Some residents joined militant groups in holding a protest rally in front of the Caloocan Police headquarters.

Another group, holding placards saying "Stop the Killings," also held a rally at the Caloocan police precinct in Tala district.

Welcome move

Lawmakers, on the other hand, hailed the reshuffle of the Caloocan Police as a timely move to address concerns of abuses of the police.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the spate of killings involving the Caloocan City policemen appear to be due to the "false perception" of some police officers that they are immune from criminal prosecution.

He said the incident, as well as the killing of Delos Santos and Arnaiz, should prompt President Duterte to temper his language on assuring police officers of being pardoned if they are convicted of doing their jobs.

Lacson said Duterte should rethink the entire anti-illegal drugs strategy of the administration.

He said the administration must make immediate "major adjustments" without sacrificing the overall objective of stamping out drugs and criminality.

"For one, there might be ingrained in the attitude of police officers the wrong perception

that they are immune from criminal complaints, or a false hope of automatic pardon from their commander-in-chief," Lacson said.

For his part, Caloocan City Rep. Edgar Erice said police abuses would continue to be committed not only in his city but throughout the country as well if President Duterte insists on his bloody anti-drug war.

"Practically, the government has given the police the right to kill, the right to plant evidence, the right to ignore terms of engagement and the rule of law," he said.

Erice said it's now the "rule of the gun" that prevails.

"God bless us all," he added.

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano said the relief of the entire Caloocan City police force was a "welcome move" on the part of Albayalde.

"It goes to show that our PNP is sensitive enough in addressing the wrongdoings of its members. But such action will have no significant impact without reviewing its rules of engagement and policies in carrying out the war on drugs and without denouncing extrajudicial killings and committing to run after vigilantes who kill without letup," he said.

Rep. Tom Villarin of Akbayan said Albayalde should be commended.

"His superior, (Director) General Roland dela Rosa, should learn a lesson or two from him. Accountability demands action and not melodramatics," he said.

For his part, Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said Albayalde sacked Caloocan policemen a month after awarding them as Metro Manila's "best and finest."

Baguilat described Albayalde's order of relief as "ironic justice."

On the other hand, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said he believes Duterte did not order the killing of minors but it is such an alarming situation that he must quickly put a stop to it.

"It cannot be denied that

there are too many killings including children. I believe the President when he says he has not ordered it. But it is highly possible that there are rogue policemen abusing their authority," Recto said.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said in the absence of an official report from an investigation, it is very difficult to speculate if there is systematic killing of minors.

He suggested the PNP leadership immediately convene the peace and order council of Caloocan City to get the local government unit and community involved in addressing the issue.

Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David lauded the order for relief of the Caloocan police force.

"Praise the Lord!" David remarked after learning of the relief order.

David said he is hoping that even if these policemen have been relieved, appropriate criminal charges would still be filed against those responsible for these deaths.

"This is the only way the PNP can protect the integrity of the whole police institution: by disciplining their own ranks and following only just and lawful orders from their superiors," he added.

Albayalde said the relief of the entire Caloocan City police force should serve as a warning to other police stations to "toe the line."

"We would not condone any wrongdoing by our men. We would not hesitate to institute pre-emptive measures like this reshuffle should they continue engaging in killings and other illegal activities," Albayalde said.

Anger and protests have focused on the killing of Delos Santos and Arnaiz, prompting President Duterte, known for his frequent speeches that call for drug dealers to be killed, to order a thorough investigation into the killings and warned police he would not tolerate abuses. — With Paolo Romero, Jess Diaz, Emmanuel Tupas, Evelyn Macairan, AP, Reuters

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give them based on their programs, but they are not doing their job."

Restored

Palace: Congress may restore CHR budget

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ
and PAOLO ROMERO

It's early days yet.

Amid the furor over the P1,000 budget granted by the House of Representatives to the Commission on Human Rights, Malacañang said yesterday the CHR might still get Congress approval for a funding allocation of over P600 million for next year.

"Just to put things in perspective, the reduction is only at the earlier stages of our budget process," Communications Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan said.

He emphasized that the Office of the President and the Department of Budget and Management have proposed a CHR budget of more than P600 million to Congress.

President Duterte and his allies have been assailing the CHR for criticizing the administration's vicious war on drugs. They insisted the CHR – chaired by Chito Gascon – has not been doing its job, as its investigations don't cover

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common crimes or those committed by terror groups.

Under the Constitution, CHR's mandate only covers abuses by state forces against ordinary citizens.

Ablan also assuaged concerns over CHR's getting only P1,000 budget, saying the House's decision was just "an exercise of the check and balance power" of the legislative branch.

Explaining the budget process, Ablan said a budget program originates from the House of Representatives and is deliberated at the Senate before a final version is consolidated during a bicameral conference.

"So we still have a long way to go. In fact, since the version of the Senate and the House may not always be the same, there will still be bicameral conference committee," he said.

"And the reduction of the budget of the CHR to P1,000 – we don't speak for Congress but as a lawyer and a student of public policy – as I mentioned earlier, is an exercise of the legislative branch of its checks and balances," Ablan said.

He also chided the "uninformed," reminding them there are only few times that the legislative can actually check on other branches, specifically the executive – and one such occasion is during investigations in aid of legislation.

"That's how they can pursue their check and balance power. The other is to actually review the budget. The House of Representatives has the power of the purse. It originates from them and the PCOO, actually like any other government agency, has to appear before congressmen," he said.

PCOO stands for Presidential Communications Operations Office, where Ablan is an assistant secretary.

"And this is the only opportunity for Congress really to hold us accountable, you know they asked us, 'What did you do for the past year? This is what happened'," he said.

"It will still go to the Senate and you've already heard comments from our senators that they will restore the budget of the CHR. It's a totally legislative matter that the Palace will respect. As far as we know, we submitted a budget for CHR," he added.

At the House, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said yesterday senators "are dreaming" if they think they can fully restore CHR's budget.

He stressed he is open to giving the agency a funding bigger than the P1,000 "but we will discuss how much we can

As senators have promised, the chamber's sub-committees have restored the budgets of the CHR, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon had warned that reducing the budgets of the three agencies would be tantamount to abolishing them as they could not function with only P1,000.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he expects the issue to come to a head at the bicameral conference committee deliberations to resolve the disagreeing provisions of the proposed P3.7-trillion national budget for 2018.

He stressed senators are not "imposing on our House counterparts" but would "listen to their arguments for slashing the budgets of the three agencies, with the CHR being the most contentious."

"We expect that our contingent will also be listened to in the most civil and rational manner and act like statesmen in this regard," Lacson said.

The bicameral conference committee, sometimes dubbed as the "third chamber of Congress," is the body composed of representatives from the Senate and the House formed whenever the two chambers need to reconcile conflicting provisions they have respectively passed.

Senators explained the proposed national budget is approved as a whole or Congress cannot pass it with some provisions left hanging. So if both chambers would not be able to resolve the deadlock before the end of year, the government would be operating on a so-called "reenacted budget."

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said both chambers should strive to break the looming impasse "by understanding the rationale" as to why the appropriations were originally proposed for the CHR, ERC and NCIP.

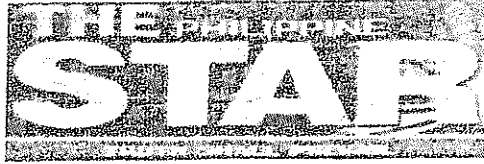
"I'm sure there is light at the end of the tunnel and both Houses will come up with a compromise at the bicam level," Sen. Sonny Angara said.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, however, said before his colleagues worry about the possible deadlock, those supporting the restoration of the budgets should make sure they would be supported in the Senate plenary.

Aquino apparently suspects that some senators are in favor of the House move allocating P1,000 budgets to the CHR, ERC and NCIP.

– With Jess Diaz

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'Martial law on Sept. 21 a remote possibility'

President Duterte can use the vast powers of his office to quell lawlessness and anarchy in case mass protests on the 45th anniversary of the imposition of martial law by dictator Ferdinand Marcos get out of hand.

The powers include the declaration of

martial law, but Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday that this possibility is "remote."

He said he did not believe protesters have the capability to mount the type of mass actions that would warrant the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21.

Instead, Duterte might declare a holiday in government offices and schools in case mass protests become too disruptive, Lorenzana said.

Duterte had earlier said he might declare martial law to quell lawlessness in

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case anarchy reigns during the martial law anniversary

Duterte said that he saw no problem if the people wanted to express grievances against his administration, or even resort to burning his effigy, as long as the protests remain peaceful.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella clarified that Lorenzana did not say that Duterte would be expanding martial law to Metro Manila.

"It is clear from the press briefing that as per Defense Secretary Lorenzana, PRRD (Duterte) would declare martial law if and when protest action leads to anarchy and disrupts the civilian government," Abella said in a statement.

Lorenzana said the commander-in-chief can call out the Armed Forces to ensure

peace and order in the metropolis.

"The normal thing that we can do under an emergency is we can put up checkpoints, we can establish curfews. Just like martial law. Martial law is more severe, but almost the same," he said.

"We can... arrest people and hold them for 36 hours. Yun kasing martial law, 72 hours eh. So 36 hours. And then we have to let them go if we cannot find any culpable violation of law and we cannot charge them with any cases, we can let them go," Lorenzana said.

Left-leaning organizations plan to stage massive protest rallies against the administration on Sept. 21, which marks Marcos' declaration of martial law in 1972.

Duterte had warned protesters not to resort to violence,

such as burning of property, during their planned protests.

"The President said, 'if the Left will try to have a massive protest, they will start burning (things) on the streets, they will disrupt the country, then I might,'" said Lorenzana, quoting Duterte's statement last weekend in Cagayan de Oro.

"In our view, in my estimate, that is very remote to happen right now," said the defense chief, who is the implementer of martial law in Mindanao.

He added that Duterte "is very concerned" that the massive protests "might get out of hand."

"So he said, 'I might declare martial law,'" Lorenzana said. "But I don't think... the Left will be able to conduct a massive demonstration across the country, disrupting the civil government or the lives of the people. *Eh hindi naman siguro mangyayari 'yun.*"

4

"This morning I was in Malacañang and I was explaining to them that the President is threatening... that if there will be massive violence that will undermine civilian lives as well as functions of government, then he might (declare martial law)," said Lorenzana after attending a graduation at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP).

Lorenzana pointed out that the threat to declare martial law did not come from him but from the President himself, who brought it up during their meeting.

He said local and foreign media attributed the plan to him.

"It's there, but they did not mention that I was just repeating what the President said," Lorenzana said.

Ant-government groups have been claiming that Duterte intends to place the entire country under martial law for him to be able declare

a revolutionary government in order to fast-track a federal form of government.

The President has repeatedly declared that he will resign immediately once the federal system of government is in place.

Protest actions

Human rights advocate groups yesterday vowed to hold protest actions next week amid reports that Duterte would declare martial law nationwide.

In a statement, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary-general Renato Reyes said militant groups are set to hold demonstrations on Sept. 21.

Reyes said they will also be protesting the "worsening human rights situation" in the country.

"It is important that we commemorate martial law and ensure that its nationwide imposition will not happen again. The protests are also well

within our constitutionally guaranteed rights," Reyes said.

Though Malacañang has denied the report of Duterte declaring nationwide martial law, Reyes said the public must remain vigilant of any threat to curtail the freedom of assembly.

"We urge everyone to remain vigilant and thwart the desperate moves of the Duterte regime to sabotage or derail the nationwide protests," Reyes said.

Meanwhile, Karapatan secretary-general Cristina Palabay said she is confident that any attempt to suppress the freedom to protest as well as any dictatorial efforts will not triumph.

Fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas also maintained that they will continue holding mass protests next week. – With Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude, Elizabeth Marcelo

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MARTIAL LAW: AN OPTION BUT PROSPECT IS 'REMOTE'

STORY BY LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

President Duterte warned antimartial law protesters he would send police to quell any violence. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said a declaration of martial law was very remote, but National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said it was an option.

FROM A1

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte said protest rallies planned for the 45th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos next week would not be disturbed by government forces but warned organizers he would send soldiers and police to quell any violence.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters in Malacañang that the President had considered the possibility of placing the entire country under martial law over fears that the protests might get out of control, but the prospect of such a declaration was "very remote."

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said martial law was "always an option" for the President and Mr. Duterte would "take the initiative to address" any violence.

'Do not destroy, burn'

In an interview late on Thursday on state-run television PTV 4, Mr. Duterte did not say whether he would take extreme measures such as expanding the coverage of martial law that had been imposed in Mindanao if the Sept. 21 rally

turned violent.

Addressing organizers of next Thursday's rally, the President said in the TV interview: "This is the only thing I ask of you: Do not destroy, vandalize, burn things down."

"Do not make the mistake of destroying things because if you do that, the next thing you would face would be the military and the police," he said.

But he added in jest that protesters "can set fire to my effigy."

He also warned protesters not to allow members of the "red army"—the New People's Army—to join their ranks.

Sept. 21 rally

The Movement Against Tyranny is planning a big rally at Rizal Park on Thursday with the theme: "Stop the killings! Never again to tyranny and dictatorship!"

Organizers said they would protest the President's war on drugs and Mr. Duterte's alleged strongman tendencies. Thousands have died in police antidrug operations and attacks by unknown assailants.

The rally is being organized by a coalition that includes left-wing groups and opposition personalities, many of whom had fought the Marcos dictatorship.

Mr. Duterte last week warned that he would not hesitate to declare martial law



Delfin Lorenzana —JOAN BONDOC

throughout the country if there would be open rebellion in the streets.

In Malacañang, Lorenzana quoted the President as saying, "If the Left will try to have a massive protest, burn things in the street, they will disrupt the country, then I might [expand martial law]."

"In my view, in my estimate, it is very remote that this would happen," Lorenzana said.

'Misleading' headline

The controversy on when the President might declare martial law for the rest of the country prompted presidential

to stage "a massive demonstration across the country, disrupting the civil government or the lives of the people. I don't think it will happen."

He also said the military and local governments nationwide had not monitored any planned massive protests by antigovernment groups.

"We do not have those indications in our reports," Lorenzana said.

House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez also dismissed reports that the President might declare martial law in response to the Sept. 21 rally.

"He has not mentioned anything like that," he said, adding, "You know the President, he says a lot of things."

Growing criticism

Mr. Duterte has faced growing criticism and protests over his deadly crackdown against illegal drugs, the imposition of martial law in Mindanao in May to quell an uprising by Islamic State supporters in Marawi, and the devastation of the Islamic city that resulted from the fighting.

His decision to allow the burial of Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani last November has also shocked democracy and human rights advocates.

In the television interview, Mr. Duterte said he would not be affected by any protests because

he was not up for reelection.

"I do not have to make myself popular," he said.

The President said he would allow the protesters to occupy any public space and authorities would deploy a lean contingent of police officers to control the traffic so that other people not taking part in the rally would not be inconvenienced.

'Self-fulfilling prophecy'

Karapatan, a human rights group, said the threat of nationwide martial law was "an expression of the Duterte regime's fear of its own demons."

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said Malacañang was trying to scare people from joining peaceful mass actions by saying that the protests could become violent.

Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said that to realize their "self-fulfilling prophecy," the President and his defense chief "would disrupt protest actions and resort to dirty tricks so they can declare martial law nationwide" as Marcos had done.

"[Mr. Duterte] will not last long if he declares martial law," Sison said in a statement. —WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS, DJ YAP, JHESSET O. ENANO, DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., AP AND AFP

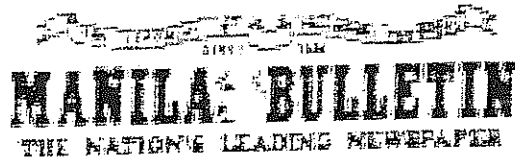
spokesperson Ernesto Abella to slam the Inquirer for "irresponsibly" repeating the "misleading" headline by the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP), which said it could be as early as "next week."

Abella said the headline on the Inquirer's news website Inquirer.net was a "tacky trick to attract" readers.

The Inquirer.net soon published a corrected version of the report. The original story was carried by other news websites, but Abella's statement only criticized the Inquirer.

Lorenzana told reporters he doubted the Left would be able

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Duterte may declare martial law

Defense chief: President expresses concern massive protests next week may turn violent

By AFP and ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte may declare nationwide martial law if threatened massive protests by communists and other leftists against his rule turn violent or disrupt the country, his defense chief said Friday.

"He said, if the Left will try to have a massive protest, start fires on the streets, they will disrupt the country, then I might (declare martial law)," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters, recounting a conversation with Duterte this week.

Lorenzana emphasized he thought the chances of Duterte declaring martial law were remote because he doubted the scheduled protests on September 21, the 45-year anniversary of the imposition of martial law by former President Ferdinand Marcos, would be as big as the organizers said they were ▶4

planning.

"But the President is indeed very concerned because it might get out of hand. So he said I might declare martial law."

Lorenzana said Duterte is keen on declaring a holiday when massive protests are held by various leftist groups but did not specify the date.

"During my interaction with him early this week, sinabi niya na pagka magkaroon ng massive rallies sa Metro Manila and it might inconvenience the public, para hindi ma-inconvenience, sinabi niya, 'di ko na lang sila papasukin (he said that in order to not inconvenience the people in case of massive rallies in Metro Manila, he will just suspend classes and government work)," Lorenzana said.

"[He] will declare na wala nang papasok sa mga opisina (that there will

be no government offices that day) so they will have a free hand kung anong gagawin nila sa mga demonstration nila (on what they want to do during their demonstration). That's what he said," he added.

"Hindi naman niya sinabi kung anong araw (He did not specify the date) but since the left is threatening to have this massive demonstration on the 21st, siguro (maybe) it will be on the 21st. Pakikiramdaman naman daw niya (But he will wait and see)," he continued.

Malacañang is also yet to confirm if Duterte will declare a holiday on the 21st or if the President is referring to the said date during his earlier speeches.

But in an interview over state-run PTV-4 Thursday night, Duterte said that he is "ordering a holiday" at this early

stage so no one will get hurt during the massive demonstrations.

"At this early, I am announcing that I am ordering a holiday para walang masaktan, walang ano kung may demonstration diyan, magkagulo (so no one will get hurt in case of a demonstration)," Duterte said.

"Walang trabaho ang gobyerno 'yang araw na 'yan at ang klase suspended. At lahat ng public places dito na gusto ninyong i-occupy, kunin ninyo (Government work and classes will be suspended on that day. You can occupy all public places you want)," he added.

Duterte also said that he will deploy only a small number of police in those areas, not to go against the protesters, but to man the traffic so the public would not be inconvenienced.

The President, however, had a stern warning against those who will join the demonstration: they should not destroy properties, vandalize, or set private properties on fire. He, however, encour-

aged them to burn his effigies instead.

"Do not take the law into your own hands. Huwag kayong magpapasok ng sabihin niyo red army ninyo na may armas (Do not go there with your own armed men)," Duterte said.

"Huwag kayong magkamali na mag-sira diyan, sira dito (Do not commit the mistake of destroying properties there) because if you do it, the next thing, ang kaharap ninyo (you would see) would be the military and the police," he added.

'Movement Against Tyranny'

A coalition of groups naming themselves the "Movement Against Tyranny" had announced it was planning protests on September 21.

It said the protests, to be held at the Rizal Park in Manila, would voice opposition against Duterte's war on drugs that has claimed thousands of lives, as well as the president's attacks on democratic institutions.

The coalition also voiced outrage at Duterte's public support for Marcos, who was overthrown in the "People Power" revolution in 1986 and died in

US exile three years later.

The announcement for the protest said its theme was: "Stop the Killings! Never Again to Tyranny and Dictatorship!"

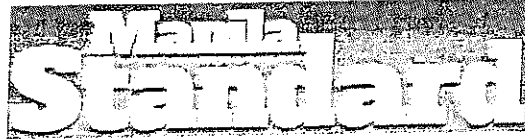
Duterte won last year's presidential elections on a brutal law-and-order platform in which he promised an unprecedented campaign to eradicate illegal drugs in society by killing up to 100,000 traffickers and addicts.

Police have reported killing more than 3,800 people in anti-drug operations since he took office 15 months ago, while thousands of others have been murdered in unexplained circumstances.

Duterte has repeatedly threatened to impose martial law across the country, but neither he nor his aides have previously given a specific timeframe or event that would trigger it.

He imposed martial law across the southern third of the Philippines in May after Islamic State group supporters occupied a major Islamic city there, leading to a conflict that has claimed more than 800 lives.

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Defense chief: Nationwide martial law 'very remote'

By John Paolo Bencito

DEFENSE Secretary Deffin Lorenzana on Friday played down President Rodrigo Duterte's threats of declaring martial law nationwide, saying this was a "very remote" possibility, given the

weakened state of militant groups.

He said if the left launches massive protests and they set fires on the streets and disrupt the country, then I might declare martial law," Lorenzana said in Filipino at a Palace briefing.

"In my estimate, that's a very remote chance that will happen."

In his speech before troops at Cagayan de Oro City, Duterte said that "he will not hesitate to impose martial law throughout the country and order the ar-

rest of everybody" if communists stage a rebellion against the government.

Lorenzana said the President was only concerned that a leftist rebellion that might get out of hand and disrupt public order, but

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their intelligence people have seen no indication that the militant groups could gather the same strength they showed during the Marcos administration.

The Defense chief also made it clear that Duterte would not declare martial law simply because of street protests.

Militant groups are expected to mount protests on Thursday, Sept. 21, the 45th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos. Duterte said he is considering suspending government work and classes in Metro Manila on that day.

"This early, I am announcing that I am ordering a holiday so that no one gets hurt if there is a demonstration there and it gets messy," Duterte said in an interview on state-run PTV that aired Friday night, transcripts of which were made available much earlier.

"Government will have no work that day and classes will be suspended. All public places that you want to occupy, take them," he added.

Lorenzana said that when he and the President last talked, Duterte had raised the possibility of suspending work in government offices as well as all classes so as not to inconvenience the public. He did not mention a holiday, Lorenzana added.

A coalition of groups calling themselves "Movement Against Tyranny" announced it was planning protests on Sept. 21. The protests, to be held at a park in the capital of Manila, would voice opposition to Duterte's war on drugs that has claimed thousands of lives, as well as the President's attacks on democratic institutions.

The coalition also voiced outrage at Duterte's public support for Marcos, who was overthrown in the "People Power" revolution in 1986 and died in US exile three years later.

The announcement for the protest said its theme was: "Stop the Killings! Never Again to Tyranny and Dictatorship!"

Duterte, who imposed martial law across Mindanao in May after Islamic State group supporters occupied Marawi City, leading to a conflict that has claimed more than 300 lives. With Bill Casar

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AA

Gov't takes new tack in Marawi, urges Maute terrorists to surrender

By Jeffrey Maitem
and Divina Suson
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Surrendering gunmen will not be shot but will be treated humanely if they free their hostages.

The military on Friday made this guarantee as it intensified its campaign to convince the remaining members of the Islamic State-inspired Maute fighters and their allies to surrender.

"They have to free their hostages. If they will surrender, we will not shoot them. That's our arrangement," Col. Romeo Brawner, Joint Task Force Marawi deputy commander, told the Inquirer.

Between 40 and 70 gunmen remain in a section of Marawi, trying to fight off advancing troops whose campaign to retake this capital city of Lanao

del Sur is approaching its fourth month, according to government reports.

Brawner said the military had turned to text messaging, public address system and social media to reach out to the gunmen and convince them to lay down their weapons and free their hostages.

He said gunmen who wanted to surrender could call the hotline number being circulated in the city or send text messages.

A few weeks back, Omar Maute, one of the top-terrorist leaders here, reportedly asked the military to provide him and his allies free passes in exchange for the freedom of the hostages, including Catholic priest Fr. Teresito Suganob.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana earlier said the offer, relayed by former Marawi mayor Omar Solitario, was the sec-

ond from the Maute group.

But President Duterte flatly rejected the proposal during his visit to Cagayan de Oro City on Sept. 10.

"No way. No way," the President said, adding that the only way Maute gunmen could get out of the conflict zone alive was to surrender.

"This has to end. This cannot go on. If they surrender, we will ... give them due process; provide them with a lawyer," he said.

"There will be no oppression or harassment or anything. No violence will be inflicted upon them if they surrender. That I could guarantee you," Mr. Duterte added.

Brawner reiterated the President's position but said the air strikes and ground assaults on the remaining gunmen would be without letup.

"We are very careful not to

hit any of the civilian hostages," he said.

Brawner said 148 soldiers and policemen, some 660 militants and 45 civilians had died in the fighting that started on May 23, when Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen and their allies took over sections of Marawi.

He said government forces had pushed Maute fighters out of many areas inside the main battle zone in the city, with the fighting now closer to Lake Lanao.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, said the military was making its "final push" to completely retake the city.

"We have reduced their maneuver space. This is our final push. We have to concentrate whatever personnel, whatever capability we have here," Bautista said. INQ

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The Manila Times

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Troops advance into ISIS-held areas in Marawi City

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Security forces fighting local Islamic State (IS) militants in war-ravaged Marawi City continue to advance to the main battle area and troops go on house-to-house searches scouring for booby traps and improvised explosives that have already killed scores of soldiers.

Security officials said militants have planted explosives in houses and buildings and structures they occupied making it extremely difficult for troops to accomplish their mission - to kill the enemy, rescue civilian hostages and liberate Marawi, the capital of Lanao del Sur.

Troops have occupied dozens of buildings and mosques previously

under the control of IS fighters who dug up tunnels and rat holes that served as their escape routes and protection from military air strikes.

The military claimed it has killed at least 650 bandits since May, but it did not give evidence to back up its claims, except the figures were all based on raw intelligence reports and unnamed

civilians and other sources. But the fighting had so far killed over a hundred soldiers and left more than or nearly 2,000 troops wounded.

President Rodrigo Duterte has been frequently visiting troops on the front line and inspected mosques damaged or destroyed by the fighting, pinned medals to wounded soldiers and visited the funeral of fallen soldiers.

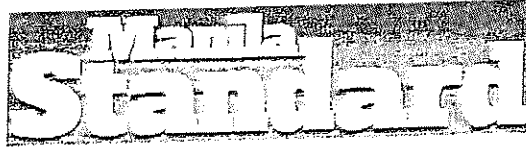
Australia, worried over the fighting in Marawi, has pledged to send soldiers to help train local forces battling militants and this is on top of spy planes it deployed in the troubled region. Japan also sent food aid to war refugees.

The United States also deployed the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to Mindanao for

additional surveillance in support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) counter terrorism efforts. Compared to current surveillance platforms used in the region, the Gray Eagle has a longer flight duration which allows it to cover 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 counter-terrorism needs.

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Aussies lead Marawi donors

By John Paolo Bencito

FOREIGN donations for the rehabilitation and repair of the besieged city of Marawi continue to outpour with Australia as the biggest source of foreign aid, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Friday.

In a Palace news briefing, Lorenzana said more than P2.1 billion had been pledged by foreign governments for the war-torn city, while more than P50 billion would be needed for the city's complete rehabilitation.

In a related development, the governments of the Philippines and the United States will embark on a bilateral, interagency counterterrorism drill, Tempest Wind, in mid-September intended to test and improve the ability of both nations to rapidly plan, coordinate, and conduct counterterrorism operations.

The whole-of-government drill will be augmented by additional military assessments, national level engagement, and subject matter expert exchanges,

Philippine official sources said.

These events will take place in the Philippines and Hawaii and are designed to create a realistic environment to exercise counterterrorism strategy, including senior decision-making and tactical responses, while deepening the bilateral partnership.

In addition to important information exchanges, Tempest Wind is recognized as a way to test force readiness and exercise interoperability.

These assessments will help to focus future bilateral training efforts to enhance the crisis response capabilities of both nations, the sources said.

The Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board approved Tempest Wind

in November 2016, highlighting the enduring commitment of both countries to the US-Philippine alliance.

The United States is a proud ally of the Philippines and will continue to provide support and assistance to Philippine counterterrorism efforts and work jointly to address shared threats to the peace and security of both countries, the sources said.

Australia is already contributing two Orion spy planes for intelligence gathering.

In his recent visit to the country, Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne committed to sending small contingents of Australian soldiers to train Philippine troops.

Data from the Foreign Affairs Department stressed that education, health and peacebuilding programs in Mindanao accounted for more than a third of Australian aid to the Philippines.

Coming next is the United States, which also announced a P730-million humanitarian assistance.

Washington, which is also helping troops in form of "technical assistance," had earlier donated 1,040 rocket motors and 992 rockets to the Philippine Air Force, while 1,000 grenade launchers and 250 rocket-propelled grenade launchers were given to the Philippine Army.

The country's closest neighbors in the region, Japan and Thailand, have both donated P100 million.

The President's new found friend, China comes off at fifth with P85 million in assistance, which consists of P70 million for wounded soldiers and P15 million for the rehabilitation.

Lorenzana, however, did not include in the list China's donation of P370 million worth of rifles and ammunition—although intended for use in Marawi, all the firearms were given to the Philippine National Police instead.

"It was the decision of the President because he knows the police lack long firearms. And another thing is, we have sufficient firearms in the Armed

Forces," said Lorenzana.

Some of the Chinese-made rifles may have been used in Marawi by "two companies or a battalion" of the police's Special Action Force deployed to the besieged city, he added.

The 28-member European Union, meanwhile, has pledged P49 million for Marawi efforts, Lorenzana added.

With the depleted funds of the military because of the Marawi crisis, Lorenzana said they had already requested a supplemental budget of P2.5 billion before the Budget Department.

Congress also has pledged to allocate additional funds if needed, Lorenzana added.

On the 116th day of the ongoing rebellion in Marawi City, Lorenzana expressed confidence the war was nearing its end, with only less than two barangays left with Maute terrorists still there.

He said the military had not set a deadline but assured that government troops were "doing their best." **With Sara Susanne Fabunan and Rio Araja**

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Soldiers selling firearms to Maute?

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The government has threatened to throw soldiers in jail if found selling firearms to Maute terrorists and other enemies of the state.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana warned about the penalties, including discharge from service, after confirming that one of the sources of firearms of the Maute rebels was from some "unscrupulous" soldiers.

"Selling is - or magbebenta ka

ng baril sa labas - is a big offense in the military and ma-court martial 'yan, mabibilanggo pa. Babayaran pa niya 'yung firearms (Selling weapons is a big offense in the military. He may face court martial, jail and pay for the lost firearms)," he added.

Lorenzana said when he was still in the military, erring soldiers who sold firearms to enemies were subjected to court martial proceedings. "We have identified them and we punished them. We punished those, we discharged them, we court-martialed them," he said.

He said the same penalty applies for soldiers who could not adequately explain the loss of their firearms.

A military official earlier revealed that many of the firearms recovered from the areas occupied by Maute group were government-issued weapons. Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman of the Task Force Marawi, reportedly said somebody from the government must have sold the weapons to the enemies.

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Soldiers warned vs selling guns

By GENALYN D. KABILING

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As of September 14, the government has recovered 692 firearms from the terror groups in Marawi City.

Lorenzana agreed that the Maute rebels could have obtained government weapons through acquisition, theft, and even smuggling.

"(There are) many ways that the Mautes acquired these firearms from the government," he said.

"They procure from unscrupu-

lous soldiers. Marami rin na nagbebenta kasi niyan eh na mga sundalo noon. Ewan ko ngayon kung ano pa 'yan, kung prevalent pa 'yan," he said.

Lorenzana said the Maute rebels have also stolen government firearms and even combat during their clashes with soldiers.

The military armory are also sometimes ransacked by lawless elements "sometimes with the connivance of our soldiers," the defense chief added.

"And also, they have been smuggling in from the outside through the southern backdoor, 'yung mga galing diyan sa labas na firearms supported by the foreign terrorist groups," he said.

He said during the Marcos regime, the government also provided many weapons to some groups to help in its security operations.

"Marami tayong naibigay sa kanilang baril na hindi na natin na-recover," he said.

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UNSA

UNA SA BALITA

Pahina. 6

DND chief umamin: Baril ng Maute galing sa gobyerno

Inamin ng pamunuan ng Department of National Defense (DND) na may mga baril ng gobyerno na ginagamit ng Maute terrorist group sa kanilang pakikipagbambakan sa mga tropa ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa Marawi City.

Sa Mindanao Hour sa Malacañang kahapon, sinabi ni Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana na ibinenta ang mga baril ng ilang tiwaling sundalo o kaya ay nakuha ng mga terorista sa mga ginawang pananambang sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan. May

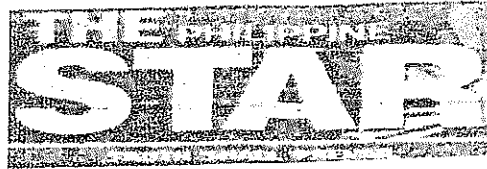
mga pagkakataon din aniya na ninanakaw ito sa mga armory o imbakan ng baril ng gobyerno.

Pero nilinaw ni Lorenzana na minimal lamang ang mga baril na napunta sa mga kalaban ng estado at mas marami pa rin ang ginagamit ng tropa ng pamahalaan lalo na sa ginagawang pakikipagbambakan sa Marawi City.

“Many ways that the Maute’s got the firearms of the government. Unang-una yung mga ina-ambush nila, pati nga combat boots and

uniforms kinukuha nila, number two is they procure from the unscrupulous soldiers and number three, this happen many years ago, when our government supported some leaders doon like Ali Dimaporo, he was given some firearms during the time of Marcos to help us in the security operations. So marami tayong naibigay na baril na hindi na na-recover because it’s very difficult to recover the firearms once they are given to them,” sabi ni Lorenzana. (Aileen Taliping)

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'P50 B not enough for Marawi rehab'

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

More than P50 billion is needed to rehabilitate Marawi, Defense Secretary and Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

Citing his visit to the city with President Duterte last week, Lorenzana said his initial estimate of P50 billion to cover the repair and construction of government and private infrastructure would not suffice.

"I think P50 billion is not enough. *Talagang grabe 'yung* destruction. When the fighting

stops...I will bring you there. You will see how damaged the area is," he told a press briefing at Malacañang.

Lorenzana said foreign governments have so far pledged around P2 billion. He said Australia pledged P1 billion; China, P85 million; the European Union, P49 million; Japan and Thailand, P100 million

each and the United States, P730 million.

As of Sept. 12, Lorenzana said the defense department also received P13.3 million for soldiers wounded in action. He said P992,840 of the amount was donated to internally displaced persons.

Lorenzana said construction of transitory shelters for evacuees has started.

"The subcommittee on housing convened last Sept. 13 to discuss the provision of water supply in the transi-

tional shelter sites," he said.

Supplemental budget

Lorenzana said the defense department requested a supplemental budget of P1.9 billion to replenish the supplies, including ammunition, of soldiers in Marawi.

He said post-conflict assessment groups are inspecting the cleared areas to determine the budget needed for rehabilitation.

The Department of Public

Works and Highways and Army engineers are also helping in the planning for Marawi's roadmap for rehabilitation.

Ratholes

Meanwhile, the military adjusted its strategy to flush out remaining Maute militants holed out in Marawi.

Col. Romeo Brawner, Joint Task Force Marawi deputy commander, said the discovery of running trenches and ratholes, which connect to several structures including

mosques, changed the tempo of their operations in defeating the terrorists.

Brawner said air strikes would remain their primary option.

The fighting in Marawi, which entered its 116th day yesterday, has left 671 militants dead. The military also recovered 672 firearms from the terrorists.

At least 149 soldiers have been killed and 1,530 others wounded in the encounters.

- With Roel Pareño

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'DESTRUCTION IS MASSIVE'

P50B NOT ENOUGH FOR MARAWI REHAB, SAYS LORENZANA

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

A war chest of P50 billion may not be enough to rehabilitate Marawi City given the extensive damage it has suffered from the battle between government forces and Islamic State-inspired extremists, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

Lorenzana said the amount was his initial estimate when asked during a recent Senate hearing how much would be needed for Marawi's reconstruction.

"But when we went there last week with the President ... I think P50 billion is not enough.

The destruction is really massive," Lorenzana said in a press briefing in Malacañang.

A postconflict assessment group that includes members of the Philippine Army and the Department of Public Works and Highways has begun inspecting the cleared areas of the city to check on the conditions there, he said.

P20 billion

President Duterte earlier pledged P20 billion for the Marawi rehabilitation efforts, promising to restore the city to its former glory.

Lorenzana said the government would use the funds do-

nated by other countries for Marawi's reconstruction, except those from China, which specified that its grant would go to the wounded soldiers.

Australia has pledged P1 billion, while the United States said it would give P730 million. Japan and Thailand have pledged P100 million each. The European Union has also pledged P49 million.

Of China's P85-million donation, P70 million would be for the wounded soldiers, and P15 million for their rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, Lorenzana also said the Department of National Defense would be seeking an additional budget of P2.5 billion this

year to replenish funds depleted by its operations in Marawi.

Most of the funds had been used for ammunition, fuel, medicines and incidental expenses, such as evacuation. The request for more funds was already forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management, he said.

Congress had also promised to pass a supplemental budget, he said.

Lorenzana said the conflict in Marawi was winding down based on the assessment of ground commanders. The fighting has displaced about 200,000 residents and destroyed roads, homes and other buildings. INQ

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The Manila Times

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Military to build permanent structures at PH Rise in 2 yrs

THE Navy will build permanent structures in Benham Rise in the next two years to establish its naval presence in the northeastern underwater territory also called the Philippine Rise, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Friday.

Three months ago, divers from the Philippine Navy planted the country's flag in the underwater plateau seven meters below the water surface, off the coasts that stretch from Cagayan to Bicol. The area was declared by the United Nations in 2012 as part of the Philippine continental shelf.

"My estimate is that... if we have the fund and we get the correct technology, maybe in two years' time we'll be able to start [building] permanent structures. We want to have a platform where helicopters could land and we want a place for our ships to go near there and dock, on top of deploying marine biologists and other scientists," Lorenzana told reporters in a news conference at the presidential palace.

Lorenzana, however, clarified that the establishment of a naval presence in nearby areas will take precedence over the permanent structures that have yet to be allocated any funds.

"Our plan [for] now is to establish a naval presence in Casigu-

ran, considering that there is an airport there that is seldom used. The other one is in Polilio, which has been used by the Americans as an airstrip during World War 2. There's another one at the tip of Cagayan. So, we'll have three jump off points for our patrols," Lorenzana told reporters.

The defense chief stressed that the imperative for the Philippine military is to protect Benham Rise around its whole stretch of 13 million hectares, as huge as Luzon, and is home to the blue fin tuna, the most expensive tuna in the world.

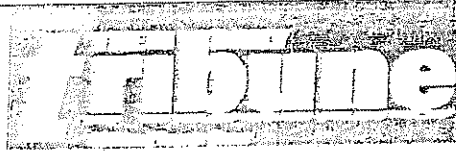
"Fishermen from other countries have been poaching there for a long time... from Taiwan, South Korea, China. Even Japan comes to Benham Rise. And we would like to protect what belongs to us. That's our plan," Lorenzana said.

"We have to protect our resources," Lorenzana added.

The Benham Rise was designated as a "protected food supply exclusive zone" by the Philippine government in May 2017. The government banned mining and oil exploration in the plateau as a protected area. In the same month, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order No. 25 renaming the region to Philippine Rise.

LLANESCA T. PANTI

16 September 2017



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Palace hits spin on Lorenzana quip

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Palace again lambasted the foreign and so-called yellow media for spinning stories to reflect views against President Duterte in a report that quickly spread among international wire services about what was claimed as a plan to impose martial law as a result of left-wing protests.



DUTERTE

Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) which was the subject of the statement of Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella quickly revised the story it posted, changing its head to "Lorenzana on nationwide declaration of martial law: Remote possibility."

The story came with an editor's note: "We are reposting this story

to clarify and update the story by *AFP (Agence France Presse)* we published earlier."

It was accompanied with a video of the Lorenzana media briefing.

Abella said the earlier misleading header on "martial law" by *AFP*, "which was irresponsibly repeated by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* was a tacky trick to attract readers' attention."

"It is clear from the press briefing that as per Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, PRRD (President Rodrigo Roa Duterte) would declare martial law if and when

protest actions led to anarchy and disrupt the civilian government," he added.

The *AFP* story was titled "Duterte may declare martial law: defense chief."

It claimed that Mr. Duterte may declare nationwide martial law if threatened protests by communists and other leftists against his rule turn violent or disrupt the country, quoting Lorenzana.

Lorenzana during the briefing, however, emphasized it was very unlikely martial law would be declared, but said the president was worried about threatened "massive" protests by the left.

"He said, if the left will try to have a massive protest, start fires on the streets, they will disrupt the country, then I might (declare martial law)," Lorenzana told reporters, recounting a conversation with Duterte this week.

"In my opinion, in my estimate the possibility of this happening is very remote. But the president is indeed very concerned because it might get out of hand. So he said: 'I might declare martial law'."

AFP then inserted a view that "the comments fueled concerns by critics that Duterte is dragging the Philippines back into authoritarian rule while waging a deadly war on drugs, three decades after a famous 'People Power' revolution overthrew dictator Ferdinand Marcos."

A coalition of groups naming themselves the "Movement Against Tyranny" had announced it is planning protests on September 21, the 45-year anniversary of Marcos imposing his military rule.

It said the protests, to be held at a park in the capital of Manila, would voice opposition against Duterte's war on drugs that has claimed thousands of lives, as well

as the president's attacks on democratic institutions.

The coalition also voiced outrage at Duterte's public support for Marcos, who died in US exile in 1980.

The announcement for the protest said its theme was: "Stop the Killings! Never Again to Tyranny and Dictatorship!"

The Movement Against Tyranny includes communists, leftist activists, Catholic bishops and rights groups.

Lorenzana said Duterte told him a public holiday may need to be declared to ensure the public was not caught up in potential trouble arising from protests from the left.

He said Duterte did not specify which day the holiday would have to be declared, but then referenced next Thursday's protest.

"Since the left is threatening to have this massive demonstration on the 21st," he said.

It was unclear how big next week's rally would be.

Lorenzana added the military and local governments nationwide have not monitored any planned massive protests by anti-government groups. "We do not have those indications in our reports," Lorenzana said.

Mr Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao last May in the aftermath of a siege on Marawi City from Islamic State (IS) allies.

A final military assault, backed by airstrikes, was underway to eliminate the remaining few dozen gunmen still fighting from houses and small buildings near Lake Lanao, according to the military.

Rody's high popularity

Despite vocal opposition from critics, Duterte remains an extremely popular leader, polls show.

Previous protests against his drug war have rarely gathered more than a few hundred people.

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Duterte won last year's presidential elections on a law-and-order platform.

Police have reported killing more than 3,800 people in anti-drug operations since he took office 15 months ago, while thousands of others have been murdered in unexplained circumstances.

Many Filipinos back the drug war, seeing it as a quick solution to widespread crime, according to a series of polls over the past year.

Duterte has repeatedly said he would impose martial law across the country, but neither he nor his aides have given a specific timeframe and event that would trigger it.

He imposed martial law across the southern third of the Philippines in May after Islamic State group (IS) supporters occupied a major Muslim city there, leading to a conflict that has claimed more than 800 lives.

Duterte said in May that he may expand military rule across the entire country if he believed IS had taken a foothold outside of the southern region of Mindanao.

It was one of many comments since becoming president in which Duterte had warned that martial law may be necessary to solve many of the nation's problems, including his drug war.

"If I declare martial law, I will finish all the problems, not just drugs," Duterte said in March.

Esperon confirms Rody statement

Should armed elements cause chaos during the anniversary of the imposition of martial rule on September 21, the implementation of Martial Law is "within range of probable actions", said National Security Adviser and Director General Hermogenes Esperon.

The official said during a meeting, Mr. Duterte, who reacted in a "level-headed" manner, asked him of possible actions he would take should protests on September

21 escalate.

"Such talks needed study. So he asked if the situation becomes critical and the streets become chaotic, what should you do? So it is in the range of probable actions or response, isn't it?" he told reporters at the sidelines of the National Security Council (NSC) and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) budget deliberation.

"It's not as if you make an action, or think of possible solutions if the problem is already there."

Asked who he was pertaining to, Esperon said "whoever".

"If that's the political opposition, whether it be the left or the terrorists, we will assess all threats and come up with courses of action that we may adapt in case those things arise," he said.

Esperon for his part corrected reports that the president is ready to declare a nationwide Martial Law if massive protests lead to public disturbances, stressing such proclamation still entails conditions.

"If the situation turns untenable and there is anarchy, what can you do? You could at least declare state of lawlessness or lawless violence," he said.

But on one hand, he admitted that Martial Law declaration is "always an option".

He, however, clarified that Mr. Duterte has not made verbal such a possibility. "He earlier said demonstrators can hold rallies but don't take the law into your own hands," Esperon added.

Esperon said there's an intelligence report from their ranks confirming such threats.

Meanwhile, he refused to identify which groups the possibility of unrest may come, or which political factions they belong to.

"Let's not impute politics here. I mean, who are the armed groups?

NPA (New People's Army), or the terrorists like IS (Islamic State) so we are looking into all of these things," he said.

From his end, the official reiterated that from good to worst case scenarios, they are ready for anything.

Marawi crisis nears end

Lorenzana added the ongoing rebellion in Marawi City is nearing its end, with only less than two barangays left with the presence of Maute terrorists.

"This is just one and a half barangay-wide. The area is just one and a half barangays. That's why I've been told by our ground commanders that it's nearly over," Lorenzana said during the Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañan.

He said the military has not set a deadline but assured that government troops are "doing their best."

"So a little more patience. Anyway, our troops are doing their best," he said.

The Cabinet official also announced that transitional shelter areas are already being built, noting that flooring for the transitional shelters have started last September 8.

He added that Task Force Bangon Marawi Subcommittee on Housing met on September 13 to discuss the provision of water supply in the transitional shelter site in Marawi City.

Lorenzana said Fliinvest, that has expressed its willingness to assist the Task Force in the provision of water supply, will meet with Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) to work on a plan to provide the service.

He added the Office of Civil Defense's Quick Response Fund may be utilized to support such projects, such as water system, to address the immediate needs of

internally displaced persons in Marawi.

In terms of psychological interventions, Lorenzana said the Task Force Bangon Marawi, in partnership with Mindanao State University, Marawi Sultanate League, and the Philippine Army has conducted a moral recovery and psychological program on September 13 in Iligan City.

Meanwhile, the Defense Chief said more than P50 billion would be needed for the rehabilitation of the war-torn Islamic City.

He said foreign assistance continues to pour in, including P1 billion from Australia; P730 million from United States; P100 million from Japan; P100 million from Thailand; P35 million from China, wherein P70 million will be allocated for the wounded while the remaining P15 million will be for rehabilitation; and P49 million from European Union.

Yesterday, Sen. Loren Legarda, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance also approved the proposed 2018 budget of National Security Council (NSC) amounting to P186.5 million and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency's (NICA) proposed budget of P788.4 million.

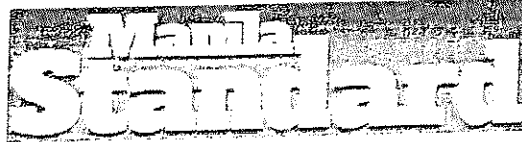
Of NSC's 2018 budget, P79.9 million will be allocated for personnel services (PS), P70.7 million for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and P35.6 million for capital outlay (CO).

Most of its MOOE are focused on West Philippine Sea, the implementation of National Security Policy 2017-2022, and enhancement of the National Security Information System.

Meanwhile, NICA, the lead intelligence collector of the national government, 2018 budget breaks to P573.9 million for PS, P31.5 million for CO and P182.9 million for MOOE. **AFP**

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Joma tags P1k outlay as 'killing budget'

By John Paolo Bencto

COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison denounced President Rodrigo Duterte Friday as the "worst kind of president" after authorizing a budget of only P1,000 for the Commission on Human Rights and billions of pesos for law enforcement.

"I think I have a lot of criticisms to make of previous presidents, but this is the worst kind of president," Sison said in an ANC television interview.

"I would say that Duterte is very well on the way to proclaiming a fascist dictatorship, he's preparing for martial law and to impose a fascist dictatorship in the Philippines," he added.

Sison slammed Congress' move to allocate only P1,000 to the CHR, which supports his statement that Duterte is heading towards dictatorship. *Next page*

"The way the budget is made, it's a killing budget, a budget for killing people, and a budget for expressing contempt for human rights."

"Reducing budget of the CHR to just P1,000 and then giving 'tokhang' this scheme of mass murder, P900 million plus other funds of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a huge intelligence fund of Duterte—this is a budget for fascist dictatorship and for killing more people," he said.

He added that Duterte is preparing for massacres in the Philippines.

"We are looking forward to despotic regime of widespread death and destruction. That is already well demonstrated in the destruction of Marawi," he added.

The Palace on Friday said that they are still hopeful that the P3.35-trillion budget submitted before Congress would be approved in whole, after the House of Representatives slashed the budget of at least three agencies to P1,000.

Communications Assistant Secretary Michael Kristian Ablan said the decision of the House to give the CHR only P1,000 was simply part of the checks and bal-

ances in government.

"That's how... our checks and balances works under the Constitution. Until that is changed, we have to respect it," he added.

On Tuesday, 119 lawmakers voted to slash the 2018 budget of the CHR to only P1,000, while only 22 voted against the proposal.

Senators said they are hopeful they can find a middle ground to resolve their conflict with the House over the CHR budget.

Senator Panfilo Lacson, vice chairman of the Senate finance committee, has vowed to call for the restoration of the CHR budget, but said the Senate is not imposing its will on the House.

"Hopefully we can find some middle ground to resolve the disagreeing provisions of the 2018 budget bill," he said.

He added that the senators would listen to the House members' arguments during the bicameral conference committee meetings.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said the Senate will stand firm on its decision to restore the CHR budget.

"Yes. Majority of the senators will stand by Senate's decision to maintain the CHR budget," said Drilon, who warned that a deadlock would result in a reenacted budget.

Senator Risa Hontiveros, meanwhile, slammed the Du-

terte administration for cutting the CHR budget down to P1,000, while allocating P1.35 billion for the Presidential Communication Operations Office.

"There's money for fake news but not for human rights," Hontiveros said. "It seems that this government is willing to use taxpayer's money to reward lies and incompetence rather than allow a constitutionally-created body to fulfill its mandate to protect the human rights of Filipinos."

The PCOO, and the Philippine News Agency under its management, have made several embarrassing mistakes and factual errors in the last few months.

In May of this year, the PNA ran a story saying that 95 countries were convinced that there were no extrajudicial killings in the country. The claim was immediately contradicted by the United Nations Periodic Review.

In the same month, a photo depicting Vietnamese soldier was used to show Philippine soldiers fighting in Marawi. It was later revealed that the same photo was sourced from Wikimedia commons.

Last August, the government's news agency posted a article calling the historic rulin won by the Philippines against China an "ili-founded award."

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PH to build permanent structures on Benham Rise

By **Leila B. Salaverria**
@LeilasINQ

The permanent structures that the Philippines wants to put up on Benham Rise to assert its ownership over the area may rise in two years, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Lorenzana said plans were being drawn up to put up a platform on Benham Rise, which has since been renamed the Philippine Rise, which

could be used as a landing pad or a place for marine biologists who want to study the area. No funds have been allocated for this yet.

The Philippine flag has already been planted in the area, an undersea landmass in the Pacific Ocean potentially rich in mineral and natural gas deposits.

"By my estimate, if we have the funds and we get the correct technology, maybe in two years' time [we can put up

the structure]. In two years' time, we'll be able to start and maybe another one year to establish it there," Lorenzana told a press briefing in Malacañang.

He said the plan was to put up the structure on the shallowest part of Benham Rise.

But the harsh weather conditions in the area as well as the waves that could rise as high as 10 meters make this difficult.

"Anyway, we will ask the

experts on these kinds of things to advise us," he said.

In the meantime that there is no permanent structure there, he said the Philippines would establish its naval presence in nearby areas, such as Casiguran, Polilio Island and Cagayan.

"So we'll have three jump-off points for our patrols in Benham Rise," he said.

The goal, he said, is to "protect what belongs to us."

INQ

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PUBLIC FILES

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DND chief inalis na ang 'pabaon' system sa AFP

INALIS na ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang sinasabing "pabaon" para sa mga magre-retirong AFP generals.

Sinabi ni Lorenzana wala nang aasahang pabaon ang mga ito dahil kaniya na itong winakasan.

Humingi naman ng paumanhin ang kalihim sa

mga magre-retirong hene-ral kabilang na si AFP chief of staff Gen Eduardo Año na magre-tiro sa serbisyo sa buwan ng Oktubre.

Ibinunyag ng kalihim na dati nasanay ang mga nagre-retirong chief of staff na tumanggap ng "pabaon" na aabot sa P50-milyong piso sa pag-

tatapos ng kanilang ser-bisyo.

Sinabi ni Lorenzana na masamang practice ang "pabaon" sa Armed Forces of the Philippines dahil ang perang ito ay mula sa korapsyon.

Tiniyak ni Lorenzana, hindi niya papayagan na ipagpatuloy pa ang pabaon system dahil sa naapektu-

han aniya ang organisa-syon at ang tropa.

Sa halip kasi aniya na nagagamit ang pondo para sa mga kagamitan at bene-pisyo ng mga sundalo, ay napupunta lang ito sa isang heneral.

Aniya, panahon na para tapusin ang maling sistemang ito na nakasa-nayan na ng militar.

16 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Militant group says 4 slain NPAs were civilians, belies clash

By LIEZLE BASA INIGO

SAN NICOLAS, Pangasinan – A militant group condemned yesterday the killing of four civilians earlier reported by the Pangasinan Police Provincial Office (PPO) as casualties of an encounter between its combatants and New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Malico, this town last August 25.

Eco Dangla, spokesman of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Pangasinan, referred to the incident as a "massacre" and not an encounter, and identified the fatalities as alleged "treasure hunters" and "senior citizens," not NPA guerrillas.

"Treasure hunters and senior citizens were the victims of PNP's (Philippine National Police's) Fascist Counterinsurgency Offensive in San Nicolas," Dangla said of the incident that happened in the same area where a policeman was killed in an earlier NPA offensive on July 28.

He said the PPO had allegedly made up the story of an encounter and that the bodies of the supposed slain NPA rebels Marcelo Perico, alias "Mar," 46, of Cauayan City, Isabela; Ar-

thuro Galvez, past 60 years old, of Ilagan, Isabela; and Crisologo Alambra, alias "Celso," 60, of Lupao, Nueva Ecija, bore signs of torture.

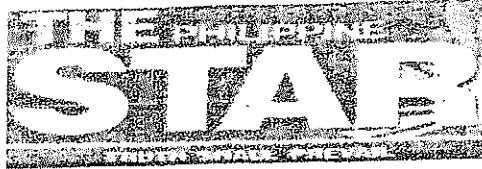
BAYAN-Pangasinan said its fact-finding mission discovered that Perico and Galvez were treasure hunters and that Alambra was their cook and not rebels as claimed by the Pangasinan PPO and its Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC).

It also alleged that Thelma Albano, 67, Galvez's common-law wife, was killed but her death was only confirmed on September 3, because her body which was discovered on August 30 also in this town was declared by the PNP pathologist as that of a teenage girl.

For its part, the Pangasinan PPO maintained there was an encounter that happened last August 25 that resulted in the deaths of Perico, Galvez, and Alambra.

Chief Inspector Norman Florentino, PPO spokesman, said that the PPSC's operation was legal and that any group disputing the report should bring its complaint before the proper forum, not social media or the press.

10 September 2017



Page 2

Comelec: Gun ban starts Sept. 23

By MAYEN JAYMALIN

Starting Sept. 23, the carrying of firearms and other deadly weapons is prohibited nationwide, unless the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections are postponed.

In a resolution, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) ordered the ban in line with the village and youth polls on Oct. 23.

"No person shall bear, carry or transport firearms or deadly weapons outside his residence or place of business and in all public places, including any building, street, park and in private vehicles or public conveyances, even if he is licensed or authorized to possess or carry the same, unless authorized by the Commission," the resolution read.

Having bodyguards or availing oneself of the services of security personnel is also prohibited unless authorized by the commission, Comelec said.

"Whether or not such security personnel or bodyguards are regular members or officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), other law enforcement agency of the government or from a private security service provider is prohibited," the poll body added.

Also considered prohibited are the transport and delivery of firearms, ammunition and explosives, including their parts or components.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said the committee on the ban on firearms and security personnel would start to accept applications for the issuance of authority to bear, carry or transport firearms or deadly weapons on Sept. 21.

And just to be fair to everyone, President Duterte and Vice President

Leni Robredo are not automatically exempted from the ban.

"This is basically to align them with the formality of the process, so that everyone is treated fairly. It's no longer a question of (whether) they should be given an exemption... it is self evident... but again we are asking them to comply with the rules as a matter of fair treatment to everyone," Jimenez said during a press conference.

Comelec Resolution 10197, promulgated on Thursday, authorized Duterte and Robredo to "bear, carry or transport firearms... during the election period or from Sept. 23 to Oct. 30" but they need to apply for exemption if they travel with more than two bodyguards.

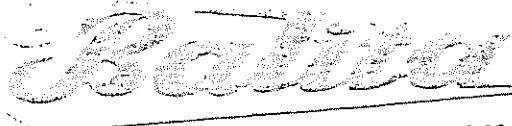
Also exempted from the ban, provided they apply for exemption, are senators, congressmen, Cabinet secretaries, the Chief Justice and justices of the Supreme Court, justices of the Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan and the Court of Tax Appeals, judges of the regional trial courts and municipal trial courts, ombudsman and deputy ombudsmen, chairmen and commissioners of the Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit and Commission on Human Rights, among others.

Violations of the new order are considered election offenses and would bear a penalty of one to six years imprisonment, removal of right to vote and disqualification to hold public office.

Jimenez added that while there is a possibility that the upcoming polls will be postponed to next year, the ban would still be imposed pending a formal announcement of postponement.

- With Sheila Crisostomo

16 September 2017



Page 3

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PANGULONG TATALOH NG BANSA ₱8.00

Peace talks, 'di masagot

Hindi masagot ni Peace Process Adviser Secretary Jesus Dureza kung may pag-asa pang matuloy ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

Nagdesisyon si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ihinto ang peace talks sa rebeldeng grupo dahil sa pag-atake ng mga ito sa mga puwersa ng pamahalaan sa iba't ibang lugar sa bansa.

Ayon kay Dureza, nananatili pa rin ang desisyon ni Pangulong Duterte na itigil ang pakikipag-usap sa mga rebelde at hindi niya masabi kung maaari pang matuloy ang pag-uusap.

Sinabi ni Dureza na patuloy na umiral ang Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) na nagbibigay ng immunity sa mga pinalayang miyembro ng rebeldeng grupo.

Beth Camia

16 September 2017

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DU30 assures BBL passage

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte may not have certified as urgent the draft of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) but he is assuring the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to keep his promise to ensure the measure becoming a law via "a game plan" to be presented to Congress.

In fact, peace process adviser Jesus Dureza said that the President is "husbanding the BBL to its logical conclusion."

The President met Thursday the MILF Central Committee, Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), which drafted the bill, House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Senate President

Koko Pimentel, and Dureza.

Duterte vowed to present a "gameplan" that will make sure the bill will be passed in Congress.

"In short, just some kind of roadmap that the President would like to present to the MILF and the BTC on how to see to it that he complies and he is true to his commitment that he will husband the BBL to its logical conclusion," Dureza said of the plan.

Another meeting will be held to discuss this "roadmap," which Dureza said will have a "comprehensive approach" to make sure the BBL will not suffer the same fate as the one filed during the Aquino administration. Dureza said the Office

of the President is still working on this strategy with the leadership of both chambers of Congress.

He said there was no discussion on why the BBL was not certified as urgent.

On the peace talks with communists, Dureza said, "The status is the President announced the cancellation. Up to now there is no written cancellation."

But he added, "Ang termination kasi, that needed to be sent. By the way, is not the cancellation of the talks. It is the cancellation of the Joint Agreement on Safety on Immunity Guarantees, the JASIG. Because 'pag may cancellation ka ng JASIG, 'yung mga pinakawalan will have to be taken back but that has not been sent." **Efren Montano**

16 September 2017

Mambala Standard

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LIBERATING MARAWI. Members of the Philippine Marines 1st Brigade conduct clearing operations Thursday at the main battle zone to liberate the ruined city of Marawi from the presence of Islamic State-inspired terrorists still in some portions of the lakeshore capital. The government has suffered 148 fatalities and 660 on the enemy side, with 45 civilian deaths blamed on the militants. **Mark Navales**

16 September 2017

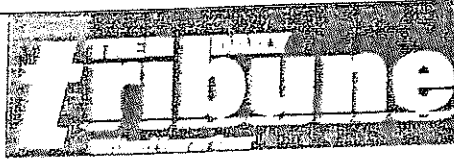


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MEMBERS of the Philippine Marines conduct a clearing operation at the main battle zone to liberate the ruined city of Marawi on Thursday. The armed conflict in Marawi has left at least 843 people dead, of which 653 were rebels and 145 were soldiers, and displaced 600,000. (EPA)

14 September 2017

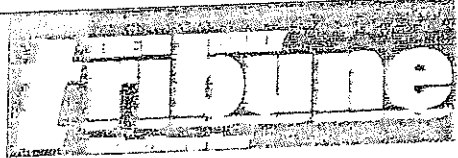


Page: 1



Too small a rally to be massive Protesters raise clenched fists next to an anti-martial law placard during a rally near the US E embassy in Manila yesterday. Philippine President Duterte may declare nationwide martial law next week if threatened massive protests by communists and other leftists against his rule turn violent or disrupt the country, his defense chief said yesterday. AFP.

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Rebel's life - This photo taken on July 30, 2017 shows guerrillas of the New People's Army resting among bushes in the Sierra Madre mountain range. Fuelled by one of the world's starkest rich-poor divides, a Maoist rebellion that began months before the first human landed on the moon plods on even though the country now boasts one of the world's fastest-growing economies. AFP

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POLICE FILES

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Walang mali sa pagpasok ni Pangulong Duterte na nakasapatos sa mosque sa Marawi

"There was no disrespect meant when Duterte, several officials and soldiers entered the Grand Mosque in Marawi with boots still on their feet".

Wala akong nakikitang mali sa ginawa ng president, sundalo at kanilang mga kasamahan. Hello! Diba't alam naman nating ang Grand Mosque ay isa sa mga lugar na pinagkutaan ng mga Maute noong kasagsagan pa lamang ng karahasang kanilang idinulot sa Marawi? Ang pagpasok nina Pangulong Duterte sa Grand Mosque ng nakasapatos ay isang pag-iingat lamang sa kanilang mga sarili at hindi pagpapakita ng kahit na anong kawalang respeto sa Islam. Maaring may mga basag na bubog at mga nagkaiat na bala ang nasa sahig ng mosque kaya't walang mali kung pumasok sila doon ng naka sapatos pa. Duuh! Why don't you try to put your feet into the president's shoes? Tingnan natin kung hindi ninyo gawin ang kanilang ginawa. Ikonsidera naman natin ang katayuan ng lugar at ang katunayan na napakadelikado ng lugar na kanilang pinapasok. Isa pa rito ay hindi naman iyon araw ng worship kaya't wala akong nakikitang mali at kawalan ng respeto sa kanilang ginawang pagpasok ng nakasapatos. Ang mga bagay na ito ay hindi na dapat binibigyan ng masasamang kahulugan, bagkus ay bigyan na lamang natin ng paggalang at pagpuri ang katapangan na ginagawa ng ating president para sa bayan. - Mackie Lorenzo, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Pagsuko ng miembro ng Abu Sayyaf

- Isang miyembro ng teroristang Abu Sayyaf ang sumuko sa Tipo-Tipo. Basilan sa pagtutulungan nina Tipo-Tipo Mayor Arcam P. Istarul at Tipo-Tipo police chief Senior Inspector Mujahid A. Asmawil at ng Army's 18th Infantry Battalion chief Lt. Colonel Manuel S. Valdez IV. Sumuko si Adzmin Namang Sabala edad 16 at may asawa.

Ang balitang ito ay nagpapahiwatig lamang na may mga miyembro ng grupo ang nais pa rin mamuhay ng mapayapa

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Lorenzana on nationwide declaration of martial law: 'Remote possibility'

By: Nestor Corrales

The declaration of a nationwide martial law next week is a "remote possibility," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Friday.

Wire service Agence France-Presse, which earlier came out with a report titled "Philippines' Duterte may declare martial law next week: Defense chief," has updated its story to remove its reference to the possibility of a declaration of martial law next week.

Duterte had earlier said he would be forced to declare a nationwide martial law if the communist rebels bring their armed struggle to the streets.

"Sinabi na rin ni Presidente 'yan eh. Sabi niya, kung the... mga... 'yung left, sabi niya, 'Kung left will try to have a massive protest, magsunog sila sa kalsada, they will disrupt the country, then I might."

(The President has said it. If the left will try to have a massive protest, burn roads, they will disrupt the country, then I might.)

Sinabi na rin niya ang rason eh. But I don't think — sa aking pananaw naman, estimate ko — very remote naman mangyari (But I don't think—in my opinion, my estimate—there is remote possibility)," Lorenzana said in a Palace briefing.

The defense chief said the President was only "concerned that it (rebellion) might get out of hand."

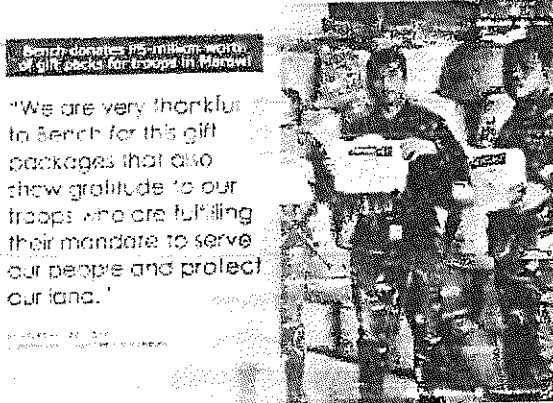
"So sabi niya, 'I might declare martial law.' But I don't think the possibility that the left will be able to conduct a massive ano. massive demonstration across the country, disrupting the civil government or the lives of the people. eh hindi naman siguro mangyayari 'yun (i don't think that will happen)," he said.

Various groups have announced to staged mass protests on September 21 to condemned the brutal war on drugs, alleged police abuses and human rights violations, and the President's plan to declare a nationwide martial law.

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Bench donates gifts to our Soldiers

By: Alvin Santiago



Bench donates P5-million worth of gift packs for troops in Marawi. MCAG

www.dwdd.com.ph

EMPEST WIND | Phi-US Counter-Terrorism Crisis Response Drill

By: Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Philippines and the United States governments will participate in a bilateral, inter-agency

counter-terrorism drill dubbed “Tempest Wind,” which is scheduled to take place next week in the Philippines and Hawaii.

The PH-US Counterterrorism Crisis Response Drill Set was approved by the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) of both countries in November 2016.

“Tempest Wind” is a whole-of-government activity that will include government agencies involved in crisis management, counter-terrorism, and security operations from both countries.

The drill is designed to provide realistic scenarios on terrorism that will necessitate both high-level engagements and responses on a tactical level.

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The Philippine government looks forward to joining "Tempest Wind" with the end in view of learning from the activity and sharing best practices with its counterpart.

This drill will strengthen the Philippine-American bilateral partnership and enhance both governments' inter-operability in crisis situations, especially those involving terrorism. **DND PAS/MCAG**



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HONORED | Awardees during 1st Mechanized Division – 11th Activation Celebration

By: Alvin Santiago

CAMP O'DONNELL, Capas, Tarlac (DWDD) – Five soldiers who participated in the operation to retake Marawi City from the Daesh-inspired Maute terrorists were honored last Tuesday, September 12, 2017 by their mother unit, the Mechanized Infantry Division, during its 11th activation celebration held at in this military camp in Capas town.

2nd Lt. Francis Alvison Serrano, Sgt. Rogelio Abuan, Staff Sgts. Joeric Ureta and Edward Hipol, and Cpl. Joel Martin were given merit awards in ceremonies led by retired Armed Forces chief of staff, Efren Abu. **1MechInfDiv/MCAG**



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KALASAG NG BAYAN | Mechanized Infantry Division 11th Activation Anniversary

By: Alvin Santiago

CAMP O'DONNELL, Capas, Tarlac (DWDD) – The month of September is a significant for the Mechanized Infantry Division, Philippine Army. It was in the year of 2006, the Light Armor Division was activated on 11 September, but now known as the Mechanized Infantry Division. Eleven (11) years have passed, since the division celebrates its 1st Anniversary.

It is a pride that the Mechanized Infantry Division, Philippine Army celebrates its 11th Activation Anniversary with the leadership of Maj. Gen. Edgar F Gonzales AFP, Division Commander. In a month long series of activities with this year's anniversary theme "Kalasag ng Bayan, Kaagapay sa Kaunlaran."

As part of the pre-anniversary activities the Mech Div conduct a series of activities to make the occasion meaningful and memorable. Will also showcases the capability demonstration of our latest armored vehicle assets, distribution of Certificate of Lot Award (CeLA) to the Officers and Enlisted Personnel of Mech Div pursuant to Presidential Proclamation NO 1144, s. 2015 and awarding and paid tribute to our soldiers involved in Marawi Siege.

Gen. Efren L Abu (Ret) former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and former Commander of Light Armor Brigade was the guest of honor and speaker. Secretary Delfin N Lorenzana of the Department of National Defense, AFP officers, Media and other civilian guest are also present during the 11th Activation Anniversary of the Mechanized Infantry Division on 12 September 2017. **1MechInfDiv/MCAG**



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Duterte malabong magdeklara ng Martial Law sa buong bansa – DND chief Lorenzana

Posted By: Bombo Reymund Tinaza

Naniniwala si Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana na malabong magdeklara si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng Martial Law sa buong bansa sa harap ng inaasahang malawakang kilos-protesta ng mga makakaliwang grupo.

Sinabi ni Sec. Lorenzana, mismong si Pangulong Duterte ang nagsabing baka magdeklara siya ng Batas Militar sa buong bansa kung magiging marahas ang rally, magsunog sila sa mga kalsada at guluhin sambayanan.

Ayon kay Lorenzana, para sa kanyang pananaw maituturing na "remote" o malayong gagawin ito ni Pangulong Duterte.

Naniniwala umano si Lorenzana na hindi kakayanin ng mga makakaliwang grupo na makapagsagawa ng malawakang kilos-protesta, guluhin ang civil government at ilagay sa peligro ang buhay ng publiko.

"Sinabi na rin ni Presidente 'yan eh. Sabi niya, kung the... mga... 'yung left, sabi niya, "Kung left will try to have a massive protest, magsunog sila sa kalsada, they will disrupt the country, then I might." Sinabi na rin niya ang rason eh. But I don't think — sa aking pananaw naman, estimate ko — very remote naman mangyari. Pero si Presidente lang kasi is very concerned that it might get out of hand. So sabi niya, "I might declare martial law." But I don't think the possibility that the left will be able to conduct a massive ano, massive demonstration across the country, disrupting the civil government or the lives of the people, eh hindi naman siguro mangyayari 'yun," ani Lorenzana.

www.news.abs-cbn.com

Tempest Wind: PH, US to hold joint counter-terror drills

MANILA—The Philippines and the United States will hold a joint counter-terrorism drill this month to test the ability of both governments to conduct anti-terrorism operations.

The Tempest Wind drill, which will take place in the Philippines and Hawaii, will include planning on counter-terrorism strategy, including senior decision-making and tactical responses.

Tempest Wind was approved late last year by the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board to test force readiness and exercise interoperability. Earlier this month, US Ambassador Sung Kim assured the Philippines of Washington's commitment in fighting terrorism.

"Counter-terrorism is a shared priority for both of our countries, and [is] important for regional stability," Kim said.

A long-time ally of the Philippines, the US has provided technical assistance to Philippine troops still battling Islamic State-inspired extremists in Marawi City.

Washington also donated P730 million (\$15 million) in humanitarian aid for relief and rehabilitation efforts in the besieged city.

Of this amount, P153 million will be used to deliver basic relief supplies such as drinking water, hygiene kits, and shelter materials for evacuees. The remaining P577 million will be used to help fund rehabilitation efforts in the conflict-stricken city.