

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

21 September 2017

Thursday

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

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 | THURSDAY

AFFECTING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AT MINDANAO (As of 4:00 PM - September 20, 2017)

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AT MINDANAO (As of 4:00 PM - September 20, 2017)

SUNRISE 5:45 AM	SUNSET 5:53 PM
MOONRISE 6:27 AM	MOONSET 6:48 PM
NEW MOON SEP 20 1:30 PM	FIRST QUARTER SEP 20 10:54 AM
LOW TIDE 5:17 PM 0.26 Meter	HIGH TIDE 10:38 AM 1.03 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	SEP 20	SEP 21	SEP 22	SEP 23	SEP 22	SEP 23
METRO MANILA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	22 - 29 °C	22 - 30 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	26 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 22 °C	16 - 23 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

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Protest rallies call for end to tyranny

By Nikko Dizon and Jeannette I. Andrade @Team_Inquirer

“Remember the 21st of September, the militant coalition Movement Against Tyranny (MAT) says as Filipinos march across the country on Thursday to mark the 45th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and make known that they oppose the increasingly authoritarian rule of President Duterte.

Mr. Duterte has declared Thursday National Day of Protest to allow the people to express their frustration at the “excesses and shortcomings of the government.”

He has allowed protests to be held without permits, but ordered police to maintain order.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines issued a statement late on Wednesday saying it was “duty-bound to protect” the “inherent right of the people to peaceful assembly.”

‘End Tyranny’

The “End Tyranny” rally at Rizal Park called by MAT is among several protests across the country on Thursday and the first massive movement opposing Mr. Duterte, who is unused to dissent after ruling Davao City as mayor with an iron fist for 22 years.

Mr. Duterte has placed Mindanao under martial law to break a terrorist siege of Marawi City and he has repeatedly threatened to put the entire country under military rule if opposition to his signature program, stamping out narcotics, turns violent. Police have reported killing

more than 3,800 people since Mr. Duterte launched his war on drugs after taking office in June last year, and unknown assailants have killed thousands more, sparking global concern over violation of human rights in the Philippines and warnings to Philippine officials about a possible crime against humanity.

At first, Filipinos supported Mr. Duterte’s war on drugs, but in recent weeks, teenagers have been the victims of police killings, causing widespread public anger.

Families of the campaign’s victims will be among the marchers on Thursday and police are watching two spots in Manila where the protesters and Mr. Duterte’s supporters are gathering.

In a press briefing on Tuesday, Director Oscar Albayalde, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said up to 10,000 protesters from various groups were expected to turn up at Rizal Park in Manila for the “End Tyranny” rally.

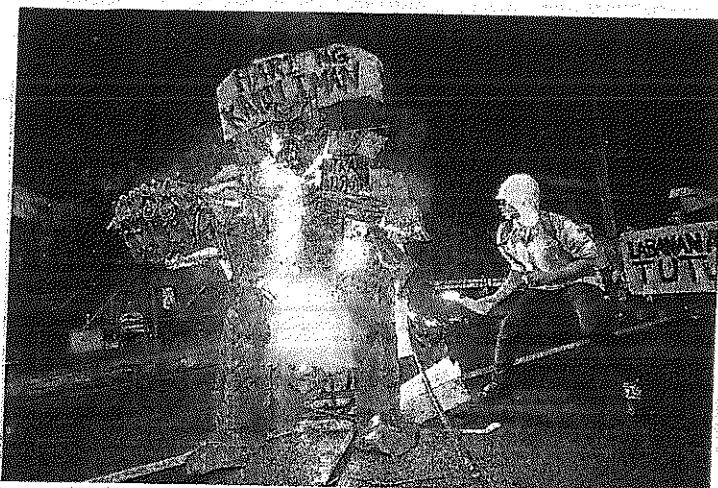
Mr. Duterte’s supporters said they could muster 10,000 to 15,000 for their own activities in Manila’s Plaza Miranda and Don Chino Roces Bridge—formerly Mendiola Bridge—near Malacañang.

Worried about trouble

“What we are avoiding is a meeting of the pro and the anti [groups],” Albayalde said. “That is why we are coordinating closely with the pro. While we won’t have problems in Plaza Miranda, we are looking at Mendiola, where Kadamay is already in place.”

Kadamay is a group of urban poor that has grabbed government housing for soldiers and police. It is supporting informal settlers in resisting eviction from private property in the cities.

Albayalde admitted that the



PROTEST PROP An activist burns an effigy of President Duterte during a rally at the foot of Don Chino Roces Bridge in Manila on Tuesday night. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

metropolitan police are worried about security, as Kadamay may create trouble during the protests.

He said 600 officers would be deployed to Rizal Park and 400 would secure the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard. The NCRPO public safety battalion will be on standby, he said.

About 100 officers will be deployed to Don Chino Roces Bridge, with 50 officers to help Palace guards secure each gate of Malacañang, he said.

Plainclothes police and Special Weapons and Tactics officers will observe the protesters to prevent violence, he added.

The National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL), part of MAT, listed down reasons why Filipinos "should speak out, be at [Rizal Park] and other places of protest, and continue to oppose martial rule."

"[I]f you don't, you might one day just wake up (i.e., if you are lucky) that: your jolly delivery boy (if he is not yet Tokhanged) has failed to deliver your morning newspaper; there are no free TV stations, much

less cable TV, except those run or approved by the State; radio only airs boring and monologous State-run programs and fake news; all mass and social media exult the bloody drug war; and your e-mail, FB, messenger, Viber, Whatsapp, Instagram, Telegram and Signal are monitored, screened or blocked," the NUPL said.

Court workers may join the protests after the Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the suspension of work in courts across the country.

A newly formed coalition opposed to the Duterte administration, #TindigPilipinas, will hold an event at the University of the Philippines and join a gathering on the Commission on Human Rights grounds in Quezon City that is expected to be participated in by Vice President Leni Robredo and Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno.

Another newly formed coalition, Laban ng Masa (Struggle of the Masses), which is not identified with either the Duterte administration or the political opposition, is one of the protest

groups gathering at the Mendio-la peace arch in Manila.

The group led by former Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello has vowed to oppose the reimposition of martial law and slammed Mr. Duterte for the killings in his war on drugs.

Across the country

In Mr. Duterte's hometown, Davao City, MAT is holding a rally aimed at countering his "increasing fascism and militarist rule."

In Cagayan de Oro City, protests will be held by the groups Bayan, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Kadamay, Kalumbay and various organizations associated with the Catholic Church.

"End Tyranny" gatherings will also be held in Naga City and Cebu City.

Militant organizations including Karapatan, Bayan, Gabriela and League of Filipino Students expect to gather up to 13,000 protesters in the provinces of Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Albay and Sorsogon, according to Vince Casilihan of Bayan Bicol.

Thousands of survivors of martial law under Marcos, student activists, lawyers, human rights campaigners and clergy will join MAT rallies in Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan provinces.

Protest marches will also be held in Tacloban City in Leyte province.

Local chapters of Dangayan and the Makabayan bloc will hold a rally in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan province, and students will march across Baguio City in Benguet. —WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS, JAYMEE T. GAMIL, JOVIC YEE, JUAN ESCANDOR, NESTOR P. BURGOS, JOEY A. GABIETA, NESTLE L. SEMILLA, JESSA O. SOTTO, ALLAN NAWAL, JIGGER JERUSALEM AND EDWIN FERNANDEZ INQ

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House junks impeach complaint vs Bautista

By JESS DIAZ and SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

The House committee on justice yesterday dismissed the impeachment complaint against Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairman Andres Bautista for insufficiency in form, making the poll chief immune from the process for a year.

"This complaint is dismissed," Mindoro Oriental Rep. Reynaldo Umali, committee chairman, declared after announcing the 26-2 vote.

Bautista welcomed the dismissal of the case, saying it was proof that the allegations against him were "fabricated and

Wife says fight not yet over. See Page 4

baseless."

He also described it as "a significant step in clearing my name after the malicious accusations hurled against me."

However, Bautista is still not discounting the possibility of taking a leave of absence or resigning from the poll body as he is facing charges before the Office of

Turn to Page 4

House

From Page 1

the Ombudsman also because of alleged ill-gotten wealth.

In a press conference at the National Printing Office in Quezon City, Bautista said these are options that are "always available" for him.

"Everything is being studied and prayed for. I cannot make any categorical answer for now," Bautista said.

Umali said the dismissal of the case against Bautista was consistent with the decision his panel made last week throwing out the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno filed by Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

He said his committee agreed in May when it threw out the complaint filed by Rep. Gary Alejano of Magdalo against President Duterte that it would no longer be liberal in treating cases that are defective in form.

"We ruled that that was the last time that we entertained a complaint that was deficient in form and that from then on, we would be very strict on the matter of verification of the allegations against an impeachable officer," Umali stressed.

Former Negros Oriental representative Jacinto Paras, one of the complainants in the case against Bautista, said he was saddened by his former colleagues' decision to dismiss

the complaint.

"We will see if we can question the decision before the Supreme Court," he said.

The case was based largely on the allegation of Bautista's wife, Patricia or Trish, that the Comelec chief had amassed more than P1 billion in illegal assets, which Bautista has denied.

Patricia, who attended yesterday's hearing, accepted the Umali committee's decision, but said there are other ways of finding the truth about her accusations against her husband.

"It is what it is, but we will continue. The truth can come out in many different forms in different venues," she said.

The rule of the House on the sufficiency of form requires a complainant to attest before the chamber's secretary general that his allegations are "of his personal knowledge or based on authentic documents." The attestation is legally known as verification.

The verification signed by Paras and his co-complainant, lawyer Ferdinand Topacio, states that their allegations "are true of our own knowledge and belief on the basis of our reading and appreciation of the documents and other records pertinent thereto."

Topacio did not show up at yesterday's hearing.

The two complainants subsequently tried to correct their error and comply with the rule on form by submitting a complaint verification.

Rep. Harry Roque of Kabayan, one of three House members who endorsed the impeachment complaint against Bautista, asked the justice committee to accept the corrected document.

Roque and another endorser, Rep. Gwen Garcia of Cebu, argued that the House impeachment rules allow a defective verification to be corrected.

"If we do not accept the substitute document and dismiss the complaint, we will never find out the truth about the allegations that involve the integrity of chairman Bautista," Roque said.

However, the Umali committee voted 27-2 to reject the corrected verification. Only Roque and Garcia voted to accept it and to declare the complaint sufficient in form.

Majority Leader Rodolfo Farifas said the substitute document, like the original, was also defective, since it was not signed before the House secretary general.

"It was also improperly filed because it was addressed to the House of Representatives and not to the committee on justice," he said.

He said Paras and Topacio clearly lacked personal knowledge of their accusations against Bautista.

"At least four paragraphs in their complaint quoted news reports in *The Philippine STAR* written by Janvic Mateo," he added.

Opposition Rep. Edcel Lag-

man, one of those who supported the dismissal of the case against Bautista, said there is no rule allowing a complainant to amend his verification and his complaint.

He said the attempt of Paras and Topacio to present an amended verification “clearly shows that the original was defective.”

Agusan del Norte Rep. Lawrence Fortun said verification is an important part of an impeachment case.

“Its absence or defect kills the complaint. It’s like an unsigned pleading,” he said.

With the dismissal of the Bautista case and the VACC petition against Sereno, there is only one complaint pending with the committee on justice – the one filed by lawyer Lorenzo Gadon against the Chief Justice, which the Umali panel has found sufficient both in form and substance.

The committee has asked Sereno to answer the complaint.

Insufficient

Bautista noted in a press conference that he did not heed calls for him to resign primarily because of his legal expertise and the sign that God had sent him.

“I would not say that I was very confident that the case will be dismissed. But I had the feeling, when I was reading the complaint, that it was lacking,” he added.

The poll chief claimed that

though impeachment proceedings could be political, he also studied “existing laws, precedents and jurisprudence of the Supreme Court on impeachment cases.”

Bautista likewise looked into the recent decisions of the House justice committee on the impeachment complaints filed against President Duterte and Chief Justice Sereno, which were both dismissed.

Aside from this, Bautista said he contemplated and prayed over calls for him to leave the Comelec and the answer he got was to stay put.

“I have read before that God answers our prayers in three ways – yes, not yet or I have better plans for you. When there were calls for my resignation or to go on leave, it seems that the answer I got was number two, not yet,” he added.

Among those who called for Bautista to quit were the six Comelec commissioners.

Bautista revealed that after the dismissal of his case was announced at the House, two commissioners sent him a text message to congratulate him, but he refused to name them.

Bautista, however, is facing another battle as the ombudsman’s Field Investigation Office (FIO) recently started its fact-finding or evidence gathering on the accusations hurled against him by Patricia.

The investigation will cover Bautista’s alleged misdeclaration in his statement of assets,

liabilities and net worth.

Lesson

A lawmaker said complainants who will file an impeachment case before the House of Representatives should learn their lesson from the chamber’s dismissal of the complaint against Bautista due to its defective verification process.

“The House takes all impeachment complaints seriously. As should everyone. It is an extraordinary remedy under the law,” Parafaque Rep. Gus Tambunting said.

“It should be a lesson and a clarion call to those who would avail of the remedy. Do your research. And make sure the complaint is grounded on solid facts and legal basis,” the chairman of the House committee on games and amusement added.

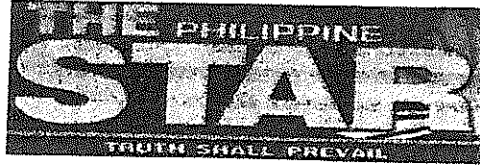
But Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza could not hide his displeasure about the voting turnout in the justice committee of Umali.

“In the plenary I will be active. I will make them realize that the (Comelec) chairman has to go,” he told newsmen, citing electoral fraud.

House Minority Leader Danilo Suarez held off comment, however, until after the Bautista complaint reaches the plenary, but highlighted poll cheating as well, where many opposition candidates got zero votes in numerous polling precincts in the May 2016 polls.

– With Delon Porcalla

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9 NPA rebels slain in clash with soldiers

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya – Nine New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed in an encounter with government troops in Burgos, Caranglan, Nueva Ecija yesterday.

Four of the fatalities were identified as a certain Gian, Bunso, Asok and Joel Manangan, alias Razul.

A soldier was wounded

in the gunfight, Col. Isagani Nato, Northern Luzon Command spokesman, said.

Nato said nine rifles and eight backpacks containing subversive documents were recovered from the rebels.

Soldiers of the 84th Infantry Battalion were responding to the reported presence of armed men in Sitio Baras when the clash occurred.

Meanwhile, the police in Sorsogon is on full alert following recent attacks by communist insurgents.

On Monday, NPA guerrillas attacked the 3rd Maneuver Company of the 5th Regional Public Safety Battalion in Barangay San Ignatio, Gubat and burned six motorcycles. On Tuesday, rebels clashed with soldiers

of the 31st Infantry Battalion in Bacon district, Sorsogon City.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza visited Sorsogon on Tuesday and discussed the peace and order situation with police, military as well as provincial and other local government officials. – Jaime Laude, Victor Martin, Celso Amo

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The Manila Times

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9 NPAs killed in Ecija clash with Army

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

AT least nine communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed while an Army soldier was wounded in an encounter at Caranglan town, Nueva Ecija on Wednesday morning.

Caranglan town police identified the wounded soldier only as Corporal Buenavista of the 84th Infantry Battalion (84IB) under the 71st Infantry Division (71ID) of the Philippine Army.

The fatalities on the rebel side were identified as Joel Manangan alias Ka Razul, while three were only identified as "Gian," "Bunso" and "Asok." The five others were unidentified.

an AK47, M14, two M653, five M16 rifles and an M203 grenade launcher. Eight backpacks with documents pertaining to NPA operations were recovered along with the slain rebels.

A belated intelligence report said the NPA rebels could have been part of the dispersed group which recently staged an attack against government troops in the upland town of Kasibu in the nearby province of Nueva Vizcaya on September 1.

At least four Army soldiers died during the attack.

Meanwhile, NPA rebels killed a Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) member in Arakan, North Cotabato on Tuesday, three days after the fatal ambush of an off-duty soldier in nearby Matalam town.

Senior Supt. Jonathan Tangonan, North Cotabato police director, identified the victim as Jeffrey Bitonio. He was riding a motorcycle on his way home from their detachment in Barangay Anapolon when NPA guerillas, positioned on one side of the road, opened fire with assault

Their bodies were brought to the Caranglan military camp.

Police said the firefight, which started at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, happened in the remote sub-village of Barat in Barangay Burgos and lasted for about three hours.

Forty-three soldiers from the 84IB and 71ID of the Military Intelligence Company carried out the intelligence-driven combat operations against more than 30 communist rebels under Manangan.

Authorities said at least nine high-powered firearms were recovered from the rebels including

rifles killing him instantly.

The gunmen immediately fled to the hinterlands northwest of the village.

On Saturday, Private 1st Class Jimmy Marcelo of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion was ambushed and killed by the communist group in nearby Matalam town. The Army man was also riding a motorcycle en route to Matalam town proper from their detachment when attacked by the rebels armed with assault rifles.

WITH JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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The Manila Times

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Cotabato safe from terrorist infiltration – Army

COTABATO CITY: This city is safe from infiltration by terrorists with local executives and barangay (village) chairmen closely guarding the perimeters and waterways, military officials here said.

Major Gen. Arnel de la Vega, commanding general of the 6th Infantry Division, said they have secured all possible entry points to prevent lawless elements and Islamic militants from using these

rivers while five boat docks are now being set up.

City Information Officer Halima Satol-Ibrahim on Wednesday said Mayor Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi signed an executive order last September 11 providing for strict security measures around the city especially along the rivers.

Most of the 37 villages in Cotabato City are traversed by rivers that spring from the 220,000 hect-

are Liguasan Marsh with tributaries in Rio Grande de Mindanao.

Aside from building the boat docks in the riverside areas of Bucana, Matampay, Tamontaka, Kajanganan and Timako, Guiani-Sayadi also ordered the tagging of boats cruising through the villages with numbers and identification marks.

Satol-Ibrahim said operation of the docks are closely monitored by

the city police and Army units under the Joint Task Force Kutawato (JTFK), which was launched last April comprised of Army and police units and law enforcement outfits.

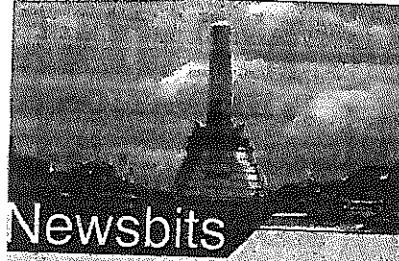
Troopers of the Army's 5th Special Forces Battalion are patrolling the rivers here periodically using Australian-made airboats fitted with machine guns.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

9 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Newsbits

• 9 NPAs killed

At least nine New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed while one soldier was wounded in an encounter in Barangay Burgos, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija Wednesday morning. Lt. Isagani Nato, spokesman of Armed Forces of the Philippines - Northern Luzon Command (AFP-Nolcom) said that the encounter started at around 7:25 a.m. and raged on for almost three hours. Troops from the 84th IB encountered at least 15 NPA rebels in the said area. Senior Supt. Leumar Abugan, Nueva Vizcaya provincial police director, said a blocking force has been formed to intercept the fleeing rebels. (Lizle Basa Inigo)

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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LULL IN THE WAR – Private First Class Mumar Falladon feeds a stray puppy he found in Mapandi district, part of the main battle area in Marawi City, where fighting between government troops and Islamist militants has been intense. (Contributed photo by Linus Guardian Escandor II)

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Troops push forward vs Marawi terrorists

MARAWI CITY—Under cover of unremitting howitzer and mortar bombardments, soldiers braved heavy rains here on Wednesday to inch forward in areas still under the control of the remaining Maute terrorists and their allies.

The military said less than 20 hectares of the city, with about 200 buildings, were yet to be cleared as of Wednesday.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, the Task Force Marawi commander, had said in a statement in August that the remaining battle area had been reduced to about 500 square meters. The military later said the correct figure was 25 hectares.

Asked to make a more detailed description of the remaining battle area, Col. Romeo Brawner, the joint Task Force Marawi deputy commander, said at least 200 structures had not been cleared by troops.

"We have expected to experience more firefights as we try to regain more ground," Brawner said.

Since the fighting broke out in the Muslim-majority city on May 23, 151 soldiers and policemen, as well as 47 civilians have been killed. The number includes government troops killed in "friendly fire" incidents.

The Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf faction of Isnilon Hapilon and their allies have lost 680 fighters, according to the military.

Brawner said the military would press its attack to dislodge the Islamic State-inspired gunmen from the city.

"We are ready for that [assault]. The AFF will press on relentlessly until [this battle's] conclusion," he said.

However, Brawner said the presence of the hostages held by the Maute, numbering between 40 and 45, had slowed the troops' advance.

On Saturday, soldiers captured two terrorist strongholds and rescued Marawi parish priest, Fr. Teresito Soganub, and another hostage during a major offensive.

Brawner said the terrorists had used the Bato Ali Mosque and the Jamiatu Marawi Al-Islamia Foundation as their command center.

The Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, said the retaking of the two structures was "an enormous gain," but it was not easy as soldiers had to fight the gunmen for about five hours. —RICHEL UMEI AND JOSEFREY MAITEM INQ

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PROCLAMATION 319

**DUTERTE
RECOGNIZES
PEOPLE'S FEAR
OF ML RETURN**

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte acknowledged the Filipinos' fear of a return of the numerous human rights violations and massive corruption that marked the martial law era under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in declaring Sept. 21 National Day of Protest.

In his Proclamation 319 dated Sept. 19, Mr. Duterte listed the atrocities that the people remember about Marcos' martial rule.

"The martial law era that began with the promulgation of Proclamation 1081 (series 1972) has imprinted itself in the collective memory of the people as a time attended by the commission of gross human rights violations, arbitrary state interventions, rampant corruption and disregard of fundamental civil liberties," he said in his proclamation.

"This administration recognizes the fear and indignation of the people against a repetition and perpetuation of such human rights violations and all other failings of the government," he added.

Mr. Duterte said he was declaring a day of protest "in solidarity with the people's call against all excesses and shortcomings of the government, and with the people's desire to uphold the highest standards of integrity, efficiency and accountability in government."

He called on local governments to dispense with the permit requirements for public assemblies, marches and demonstrations.

He also directed the police and other law enforcement authorities to observe maximum restraint. INQ

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AFP assures Filipinos: We will uphold democracy

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

Forty-five years after the declaration of martial law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has assured Filipinos of its commitment to uphold democracy.

"We must remember that the martial law of today is not the same as the martial law of yesterday," AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said yesterday.

"On the eve of the anniversary of the declaration of martial law of 1972, the AFP passes on its assurance to the people that we abide fully by all the principles of our democratic way of life and that allowing vindictiveness to rule will not be productive," he added.

With protest actions expected to be held in various parts of Metro Manila and other parts of the country today, the AFP said it respects the right of the people to peaceful assembly that is enshrined in the Constitution.

"It is a right that we are duty-bound to protect as part of our mandated duty. This is part and parcel of our democratic way of life," Padilla added.

But the AFP reminded protesters that the right to peaceful assembly must be availed of responsibly and must not unduly disturb the right of others to carry on their lawful business.

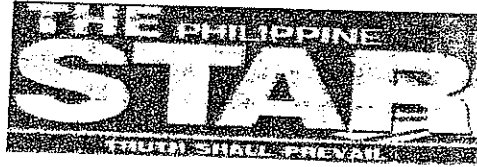
"We then admonish those participating in such exercises to make sure that they do not unduly impede traffic, ensure they do not destroy public and private property and respect those who do not wish to participate," Padilla said.

President Duterte has declared Sept. 21 as a National Day of Protest in recognition of the people's right to peaceful assembly and freedom to express their grievances against the government.

Malacañang did not declare Sept. 21 a holiday but has cancelled classes in all public schools and work in government offices under the executive branch.

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Return of mandatory ROTC good for AFP

Saluting the spirit of volunteerism among young Filipinos, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año has expressed optimism over the return of the mandatory Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program for Grades 11 and 12 students.

Reservists play a vital role in the military as a reserve force whose members are motivated by their desire to serve their country, according to Año.

"The ROTC is one of the major sources of the AFP's Re-

serve Force," Año said during the awarding of outstanding reservists and reserve units in the country in celebration of National Reservists Week at the AFP grandstand at Camp Aguinaldo over the weekend.

"The approval of President Duterte of the restoration of the ROTC for Grades 11 and 12 in public and private schools nationwide is very much invigorating as this will help proliferate and build up the AFP's Reserve Force," he added.

Año said the AFP recognizes and commends the spirit of

volunteerism, patriotism and dedication that reservists have.

"The participation of some members to the rear of the Marawi battleground is worthy of emulation," he said, referring to some reservists who are helping regular military officers and men in the fight against the Maute group.

Earlier this year, Duterte approved the revival of the ROTC program among Grades 11 and 12 and asked Congress to pass a law on it.

At present, the AFP has about 385,116 Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine reservists

and 1,520,704 ROTC cadets.

During the awarding ceremony attended by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison Jr. on Saturday, the military handed awards to Reserve Navy Commander Alexander Abilo, the AFP Reservist of the Year for Field Grade Level; Reserve Air Force Lieutenant Albert Corres, AFP Reservist of the Year for Company Grade Level; and Reserve Navy PO3 Jocelyn Nuevo, AFP Enlisted Reservist of the Year.

– Michael Punongbayan

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Maute still in 10 hectares; 300 structures need to be cleared by AFP

By FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that the area still controlled by the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute Group is down to about 10 hectares in the Main Battle Area (MBA) area inside Marawi City.

"The area that still has to be cleared is about 15 to 18 hectares but the area where they are confined, where they are moving, is around 10 hectares," Col. Edgar Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, said.

Arevalo said more than 300 build-

ings and houses still need to be cleared

buildings," Lorenzana said. "Based on orders by the President (Rodrigo Duterte), we will do our clearing so that we will not endanger unnecessarily the lives of their hostages," he said.

Since fighting in Marawi City began on May 23, more than 800 government troops, Maute fighters, and civilians have died in the conflict.

Malacañang verifying

Meanwhile, Malacañang said the government is verifying reports about the emergence of the Meranaw Victims Movement (MVM), a new armed group in Mindanao.

The group posted a 14-minute video online on Monday night to demand the Maute Group to leave Marawi City and free all their hostages, regardless of religion. The MVM is reported to be composed of armed Maranaos displaced by the war in Marawi City.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the government does not condone the formation of armed groups. "The government, through the military, is still verifying the veracity of the video posted online on the existence of a new armed group called Meranaw Victims

ings and houses still need to be cleared by ground troops in the area. "When we say cleared, it means from IEDs (improvised explosive devices), bombs, etc.," he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana had earlier said that government soldiers are slowly delimiting the areas where the Maute Group retains its stronghold.

"Lumiliit na yung area nila (their area is getting smaller). We still need to rescue their hostages inside the area. They are no longer in Bato Mosque. Maybe they are in nearby

Movement," Abella said.

"Also, demands from government are better made through dialogues and consultation with various stakeholders," he added.

The group, whose leaders and members are yet to be identified, attributed their emergence to their relationship with the civilians who died in the war but whose bodies are yet to be retrieved.

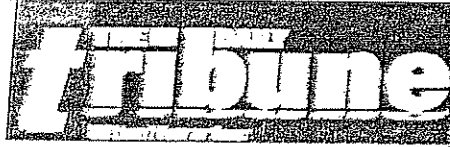
"The group is dedicated to help in fighting for the rights of the Bangsa Meranaw whose dignity was trampled upon because of this crisis," MVM said in its Facebook post.

The MVM also said that it does not conform with the use of Marawi City as sanctuary for the Maute Group.

The group also demanded that the government allow civilians to return to their houses in areas of the besieged city which have already been cleared by the military.

It also demanded an end to the airstrikes and the alleged abuses of some soldiers and policemen at checkpoints. It urged the authorities to accord respect to civilians, especially women. (With a report from Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)

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AFP asset in Maute group pulled out priest, hostage from terrorists

By Mario J. Mallari

A military asset within the Maute Group extricated Fr. Teresito "Chito" Suganob and another hostage from the hands of the Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists last Saturday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, public affairs chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) issued this statement, following the pronouncement from Bishop Edwin dela Pena that Suganob escaped

his way out from the terrorists.

Arevalo maintained that Suganob was rescued—describing the operation that led to it as an "intricate intelligence combat operation."

"The rescue operation that happened is not known even to Father Chito himself that's why we respect it if that was the perception he has," said Arevalo.

"What we are saying is the fact that he went out guided by one of the assets of the intelligence service,

he reached the place where he was to be fetched by already pre-determined soldiers is already a manifestation that it is a grand intelligence properly planned and well executed," he further explained.

According to Arevalo, Suganob and Lordbin Acopio, a teacher at Dansalan College, were extricated from the hands of the terrorists during last Saturday's firefight at Bato Mosque between government troops and the group of Omar Maute.

"It's a product of an intricate intelligence combat operation... both of them did not know it was an intricate intelligence combat rescue operation...we got both of them alive...to us that is what matters the most," said Arevalo.

Pressed on the intelligence asset responsible on the rescue, Arevalo admitted it was an "insider" from the Maute group.

"It was an insider, okay. That's what we can say," said Arevalo. He said the "insider" continued to

assist the military in the ongoing operations in Marawi City.

"We do not want to delve any further on the issue whether he was rescued or he was able to escape," he added.

As of Tuesday, the military said that there were about 50 more hostages being held by the group of Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the ISIS in Southeast Asia.

Arevalo said that the military is currently validating the existence of

the so-called Meranao Victims Movement and if it does, who are the personalities behind it.

He expressed hopes that those behind it are not out to disrupt government efforts in Marawi City, particularly the massive rehabilitation and repair works.

"With regard to that particular group, we are also doing our own verification and validation because we would like first to determine if that group indeed exists...and who are behind it," said Arevalo.

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Malaya

The Philippine News

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Military: Priest not aware of operation to rescue him

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday maintained Fr. Chito Soganub and a teacher were rescued by government soldiers from the Maute Group in Marawi City last Saturday, disputing a bishop's pronouncement that the two escaped.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the rescue of Soganub and teacher Lordbin Acopio was the product of an "intricate intelligence combat

operation."

Arevalo said a military asset secured Soganub and Acopio during a firefight that led to the recovery of the Bato Mosque which the military said served as command and control center of the Maute Group. During the gun battle, the asset guided the two captives to soldiers who were positioned at a pre-determined area.

"The one who took him (and

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MILITARY

Acopio) is determined, the area where he was brought was also determined by us... That is a product of an intricate intelligence combat rescue operation," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said the military did not divulge the details during the presentation of Soganub to media last Monday because it did not want to "burn" or compromise their intelligence asset.

"But since the issue on whether he escaped or was rescued surfaced, we have to explain this," he said.

He said Soganub and Acopio were not aware of the rescue operation.

Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña earlier said he had been told by Soganub that he and Acopio escaped and were not rescued by the military. He said Soganub related the facts past midnight of September 17, shortly after he escaped.

"We understand that. We respect the good Fr. Chito if he feels that he was not rescued because he didn't know it... We understand if the impression of the father is he was able to escape," he said.

"But at the end of the day, what is important is that Fr. Chito and Mr. Acopio are alive, recovering, and are currently with their families," Arevalo added.

Soganub had been held hostage together with a number of Marawi

residents since the Maute attacked the city on May 23. The conflict has resulted in the death of nearly 1,000 Maute members, soldiers, policemen, and civilians.

Arevalo stressed the military is not setting a deadline as to when Marawi will be freed of Maute men. President Duterte on Tuesday night said the conflict could end this month.

Arevalo also said the Armed Forces is verifying the reported emergence of a group calling itself the Meranaw Victims Movement, which is supposedly composed of relatives of civilians who died in the conflict. The group is demanding that residents be allowed to return to areas in Marawi that have been cleared by the military, and a halt to aerial bombings.

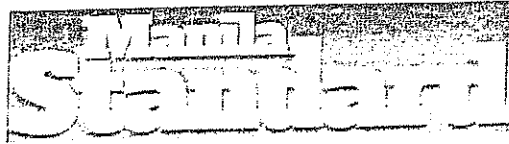
"We are going to validate whether this group indeed exists and who are the people behind this group, its composition," he said.

Later yesterday, AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said, "There is no such group existing. Anyone can write and publish anything but we will not allow formation of any armed group."

"We will enforce the law no matter what it takes. In the first place, their long list of demands are within the agenda/programs of TF (Task Force) Bangon Marawi in rehabilitating and reconstructing Marawi," added Año.

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Mopping up as Marawi war nears end

THE Marawi crisis will likely end this month as government troops are concluding their operations in the war-torn city, President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday.

"It looks like we're just mopping up, and they're just trying to find out where

the leaders are," Duterte told state-run PTV4.

Duterte said that while he thinks the fight in Marawi is "almost over," there won't be any victory celebration.

"I do not want any celebration of victory. We

all lost in Marawi. Every Moro or every soldier who died breaks our heart. They're all Filipinos," he said in Filipino.

"So when it's over, I don't want anybody shouting, 'Mabuhay! Mabuhay!'

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Let us just pray to God, maybe thank the Lord that it's over. We hope Allah will remember the people of Marawi," he added.

The President said the government will focus on rebuilding the war-torn city.

As of Sept. 18, 673 terrorists and 149 soldiers were killed, while 47 civilians died in the fighting that began May 23.

John Paolo Bencito

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Reds to Rody: Cheap talk on resumption of peace talks

By Ted Tuvera

It's all cheap talk.

This was the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) response yesterday to President Duterte's openness to resume the peace talks with its Holland-based negotiating arm, the National Democratic Front (NDF).

In a statement, the CPP said Duterte's offer to continue the stalled negotiations is merely meant to recover the revolutionary movement's trust as its alliance with him is dying.

"Clearly, Duterte is resurrecting talks of peace negotiations as part of his damage control measures in the face of the increasing isolation of his regime," the CPP said.

The Communist Party reiterated that it welcomes the possibility of talking with Duterte anew as long as he is serious in addressing the roots of the nearly 50-year-old armed struggle.

But the Reds reminded the Duterte not to engage them by flagging his own demands.

"It is the policy of the revolutionary forces to remain open to peace negotiations with any ruling regime that expresses willingness to seriously discuss the roots of the armed conflict in accordance with previously agreed principles and procedures as stipulated in The Hague Declaration," the CPP said.

"The peace negotiations can resume if Duterte will drop his earlier precondition of a bilateral

ceasefire which became the single biggest factor which terminated the talks. The ball is still in Duterte's hands," it added.

Although open to talks, the CPP said it does not expect anything substantial Duterte's face saving bid especially on the issue of human rights.

"While open to resuming peace talks with the Duterte regime, revolutionary forces are no longer hopeful that anything substantive will come out of it in the face of Duterte," it said.

"What will come out of negotiations on political and constitutional reforms considering Duterte's all-out subservience to the US military and its counter-insurgency doctrine and aerial bombardment campaign in Marawi and other parts of the country?"

"Duterte's triple war violates the human rights agreement with impunity. He could not even fulfill his vow to release political prisoners now numbering more than 400."

Duterte, over the weekend, said he is still open to talking peace with the communists.

"Now, if you want to resume the talks, I am not averse to the idea, but let me sort out first the other branches of government," Duterte said on Saturday.

"There are things which I cannot concede alone because I am not the only one in control of this government. I share power with Congress and the Supreme Court," he added.

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NPA's release video of captured policeman

By ZEA C. CAPISTRANO

DAVAO CITY – The New People's Army (NPA) on Wednesday released a video of a police officer the rebel group captured in Kidapawan City a month ago.

In the video, PO1 Bristol B. Catalan, Jr. said he has been treated well by his captors. He also assured his family that he was safe in the hands of his captors.

"Sukad wa man pud ko kakita og NPA.. Gani ang... maong nakahuna-huna gyud ko nga ilaha gyud kong pasakitan. Pero ang nakita ko didto, wala man diay, layo diay sa tinuod. Ultimo pitik, wala man ko katilaw eh. Giatiman ka nila maayo, nagsakit akong rayuma, gitambalan ko. (Ever since I have not seen a Red fighter... That's why (when I was caught) I thought they would ill-treat me. But what I found out, it's far

from the truth. I did not receive even a single flick. They treated me well," he said.

Catalan also appealed to local government officials to help ensure his immediate release. He also called on the military and the police to stop military offensives.

In a statement, Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the Regional Operations Command of

the NPA in Southern Mindanao, said relentless operations of government forces have continued to hamper the release of Catalan.

"Negotiations with regards to his possible release are being sabotaged by these operations in the name of the Duterte's fascist martial law," Sanchez said.

Last week, the NPAs released a senior police officer if held as a "prisoner of war" for more than three months.

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BusinessMirror

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CPP ready to resume peace talks with govt

BY ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES

[@alyasjah](#)

THE Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has expressed readiness to return to the negotiating table, following President Duterte's remark he is "not averse" to the idea of resuming the stalled peace talks with the communists.

In a statement, the CPP said it is not closing its doors to the Duterte administration in spite of its withdrawal from the peace talks in May. "As the party and the NDF [National Democratic Front] have often stated, it is the policy of the revolutionary forces to remain open to peace negotiations with any ruling regime that expresses willingness to seriously discuss the roots of the armed conflict, in accordance with previously agreed principles and procedures as stipulated in The Hague Declaration," the statement read.

"Thus, the peace negotiations can resume if [President] Duterte will drop his earlier precondition of a bilateral cease-fire, which became the single biggest factor which terminated the talks. The ball is still in Duterte's hands," the statement added.

The statement came in light of the President's remark last Saturday that he is not averse to the idea of talking again with the communists. He said he just has to consult with his Legislative and Judicial counterparts before sending the government panel back to the negotiating table.

"Now, if you want to resume the talks, I am not averse to the idea, but let me sort out first the other branches of the government," Duterte said.

In spite of the renewed optimism on the prospect of peace, the CPP branded the President's statement to resume the peace talks as "part of his damage-control measures" while the administration sails in arguably the toughest period of its regime. "Duterte is widely blamed for terminating the NDFP-GRP negotiations because of his stubborn insistence to toe the United States's line of using peace talks as an instrument for the pacification and capitulation of the revolutionary forces."

However, the CPP made clear it is "no longer hopeful" the peace talks will achieve any substantive reform. "While open to resuming peace talks with the Duterte regime, revolutionary forces are no longer hopeful that anything substantive will come out of it in the face of Duterte's subservience to the interests of US imperialism and other big foreign capitalist countries."

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The Manila Times

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Police kill notorious Abu Sayyaf Group ally

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Police killed an allegedly notorious suspect with a string of murder and frustrated-murder cases to his name during a clash in Naga town of Zamboanga Sibugay on Tuesday.

Chief Insp. Helen Galvez, regional police spokesman, said Moner Jikiri Timbol, 44, a member of Abdusalan band of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) had been blamed for a spate of ransom kidnappings and banditry in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

The fighting broke out in

Barangay Mamagon between elements of the Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Public Safety Company and at least seven armed men after civilians tipped off police on the presence of gunmen in the area.

Timbol was also wanted for murder cases in the province.

Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, regional police commander, said police forces were hunting down at least six other gunmen who escaped during the running gunbattle.

AL JACINTO

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New armed group in Marawi?

Malacañang has ordered the military to verify the reported emergence of a new armed group in Marawi.

The so-called Meranaw Victims Movement is reportedly calling on Maute militants to free their remaining hostages and leave Marawi.

"The military is still verifying the veracity of the video posted online on the existence of a new armed group," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said yesterday.

Abella said the government does not tolerate the creation of armed groups to seek redress for grievances of citizens.

He also encouraged the personalities behind the group to reach out to the administration.

"Demands from government are better made through dialogues and

consultation with various stakeholders," Abella said.

In a 14-minute video posted online, the group claimed it is composed of armed evacuees from Marawi.

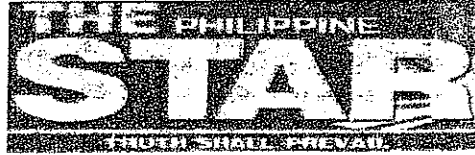
The group is dedicated to help in fighting for the rights of the Bangsa Meranaw whose dignity was trampled upon because of this crisis," the group said in a Facebook post.

"We hold our local leaders, past and present... responsible for failing to prevent the ISIS-inspired Maute group from carrying out their plan... They were fully aware of the group's presence in the city prior to the siege and for literally forsaking the civilians like orphans in the midst of great danger during the onset of the siege on May 23, 2017," it added.

- Christina Mendez

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POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Who really needs martial law badly?

BOTH President Rodrigo Duterte and the Opposition presumably want martial law declared nationwide this early, coinciding with the 45th anniversary of the People Power Revolt that toppled Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 – because they need it.



- To Duterte, imposing martial law before his popular support wanes beyond recovery could help consolidate his hold on this fractious nation that he wants to lead to a federated setup under a new Constitution written according to his designs. Waiting longer might prove too late.

- To the Opposition (not the Liberal Party, but to a still ill-defined oppositionist mix), this may be the opportune time to go for it – considering Duterte's declining popularity marked by fumbles in such key areas as corruption and crime, including the drug menace.

Once Duterte's decline hits a tipping point, beyond which he starts to skid, he and his team may not be able to arrest his early tumble. How far ahead is that hump before the irreversible slide?

Declaring martial law now could help him control the elements that still linger around him because of their misimpression that the 16 million voters who carried the then Davao mayor to Malacañang are still intact. Are they?

The trolls, whose number is padded by handlers in their cheat sheets, may seem ferocious in social media, but cannot be counted on to march in the streets. And the bots, those computerized creatures bought wholesale by the thousands, are unable to walk to the hustings.

The dwindling number of warm bodies to rely on could be offset if the Commander-in-Chief is assured that the armed forces, a 160,000-strong bureau under the defense department, are solidly behind him.

This iffy point is still subject to validation – which could explain Duterte's relentless, and inordinately expensive, courtship of the military, as well as of the national police, the uniformed civilian counterpart of the armed forces.

As for the Opposition, they have smelled the blood of a wounded quarry. It would be a mistake for them to slacken the chase while Duterte is slowing down and exposing his vulnerabilities in such areas as narcotics, corruption, foreign affairs and gut concerns like jobs and wages.

It could happen that the Opposition want Duterte to blunder into declaring nationwide martial this early. Such a precipitate act could electrify people who suspect that a resort to authoritarianism is just a cover-up for incompetence.

Many times, Duterte's worst enemy is his own mouth. So as not to further sully the dignity and credibility of his office, he may want to assign to his subordinates and apologists the dirty job of prevarication, equivocation, lying and cursing.

When caught lying about supposed foreign bank accounts of Sen. Antonio Trillanes, for instance, he claimed that he was just disseminating misinformation to mislead the senator. With that and previous false statements, the President's credibility has been seriously shattered.

Who believed him when he flipped on human rights and announced he was inviting United Nations human rights officials to set up a Manila station and monitor his drug drive? The idea sounds as ludicrous as his plan to jet-ski to disputed islands to plant the Philippine flag.

It is worrisome to see the President improvising from one problem to another. Declaring martial law this early might provide a break, but would it not be downhill after the hump?

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THREAT OF ANOTHER MARTIAL LAW

The demons of martial law will never stop to hound us.

There are demagogues who intentionally use it to serve the ends of politics. They keep reminding us of their sacrifice, highlighting their opposition against atrocities in order to protect and defend the people and preserve the bastions of democracy.

Among us are the victims of human rights abuses, whose sufferings and experiences of torture and appalling dehumanization haunt the pages of recent history. No one will forget their woeful tales and the desecration of their dignity. The pain and agony that they will carry all their lives will never mollify the sad experiences.

As to the black mark on our national pride, the family that ruled the nation during martial law has regained its place among the political elite

and once again threatens to make a replay of the most ignominious time of our nation.

The presence and conglomeration of many factors: terrorist threats, protests against abuse of authority, and possible impeachment of the chief justice are just some indicators of unstable times.

These are incendiary materials waiting for the spark that will ignite it into the fiery conflagration that will justify the extension of martial law in Mindanao to cover the whole country.

Our problem is not merely exorcising the phantom of martial law. Officialdom has expressed sinister ideas that could tempt an impulsive leader for an encore of martial law.

MARK E. PARAS JR. and RAMON DIÑO,
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ONLINE NEWS

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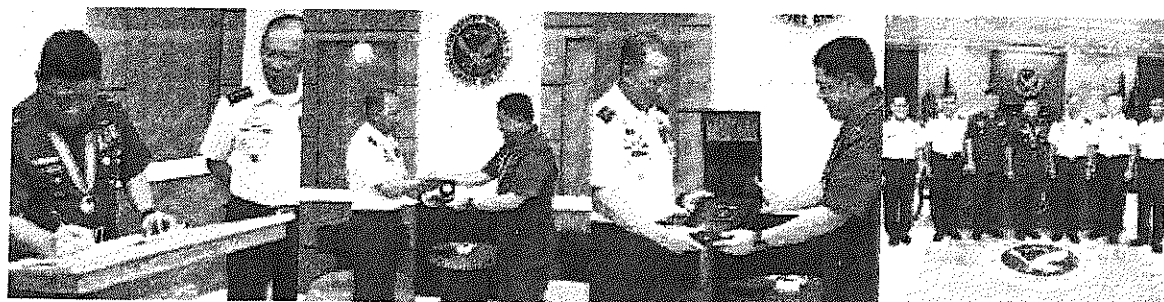
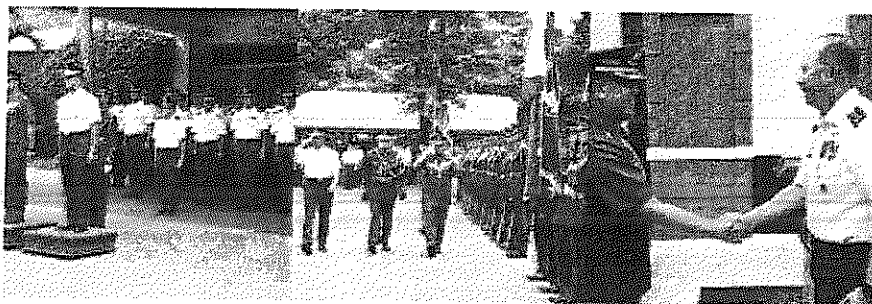
RETIREMENT CALL | MGen Benjamin R Madrigal AFP

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on September 20, 2017 at 8:47 AM



COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIR BASE, Pasay City (DWDD) – Commander, Southern Luzon Command, Major General, Benjamin R Madrigal AFP renders his courtesy call to the Commanding General Philippine Air Force, Lieutenant General, Edgar R Fallorina AFP at the Office of the Commanding General, Col Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City on September 18, 2017.

Prior to the retirement call with the CG, PAF, arrival honors was also accorded to MGen Madrigal at the HPAF Quadrangle. **PIO PAF / Photo by Sgt Tombado PAF / MCAG**



www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

MILF: MILF, MNLF commanders vow to help in the campaign against illegal drugs

Posted to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Website (Sep 20): **MILF, MNLF commanders vow to help in the campaign against illegal drugs**



A Mindanews report posted online on September 15 said that Commanders from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front have vowed to help in the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

Senior Supt. Jonathan Tongonan, Officer-in-charge of the Cotabato Police Provincial Office disclosed that said commanders manifested their support in a covenant signed after a "special meeting" Thursday (September 14) with the local police and the municipal government of Matalam, North Cotabato.

Mayor Gigi Valdevieso-Catamco called for the meeting which was also attended by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA R-12) and the provincial police office.

In an interview over catholic-run DXND, Tongonan said the commanders admitted that they have relatives who are using and selling drugs.

Illegal drugs trade according to Tongonan has disturbed their communities for so long and at times caused 'rido' or family feuds among them". Police records showed Matalam town is considered a "hot spot" of illegal drugs.

http://www.luwaran.com/news/article/1008/milf_mnlf_commanders_vow_to_help_in_the_campaign_against_illegal_drugs

www.dwdd.com.ph

MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT | AFP Receives P20.3-M for AFP Health Service Command

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on September 26, 2017 at 6:56 AM



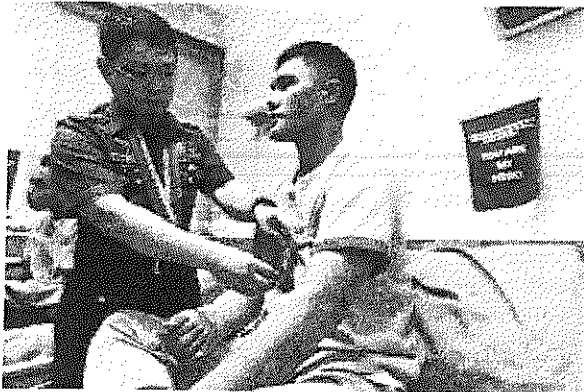
V LUNA ROAD, Quezon City (DWDD) – General Eduardo Año, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff (middle) receives a check donation worth P20,300,000.00 from the Department of Health – NCR Office headed by Dr. Ariel I. Valencia, MPH, CESO III, Regional Director (left) during a ceremony on Friday, 15 September 2017 at the AFP Health Service Command (AFPHSC), Quezon City.

Also present is AFPHSC Commander, Brigadier General Edwin Leto Torrelavega (right). The amount will be donated to the AFPHSC in support to the brave soldiers who risked their lives in order to maintain just and lasting peace for our country. **Photo by PH3 Jayson Rutao PN/PAOAFP/MCAG**

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AWARDS | AFP Chief Honors Heroism of Wounded Soldiers

Covered By Alvin Santiago on September 20, 2017 - 12:47 AM



V LUNA ROAD, Quezon City (DWDD) – Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año awards the Wounded Personnel Medal to one of the soldiers confined at the Heroes Ward, AFP Health Service Command (AFPHSC) in V. Luna Road, Quezon City, Friday, 15 September 2017.

Aside from the medal, General Año also hands out gift checks to the patients in Heroes Ward.

His visit is aimed at boosting the morale of soldiers in AFPHSC, particularly to honor the heroism of soldiers who were Wounded-In-Action during combat operations. **Photo by PH3 Jayson Rutao PN/PAOAFP / MCAG**

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AIM HIGH | IP Tribal Outreach Program at Brooke's Point

Posted by Alvin Santiago on September 20, 2017 at 10:25 AM



BROOKE'S POINT, Palawan (DWDD) – The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Brooke's Point, Palawan conducted another "IP Tribal Outreach Program" for Indigenous People living in the southernmost portion of the province.

The activity is part of the government's public service and giving importance to IPs.

The warm welcome rendered by the people of Sitio Kelwi is a strong manifestation of their support for the government and resistance to the pretentious and deceptive tactics of the communist/terrorist New People's Army (NPA).

The services rendered to the Pala'wan includes free Medical check-up, livebirth registration, Philhealth membership, immunization, and the distribution of vegetable seedlings, medicines for livestock, and, anti-rabies vaccine.

The Provincial Government of Palawan also distributed healthy meals, additional medicines and vitamins for the IPs.

They also gave books and school supplies, empty water containers, white board, and different kitchen utensils for the Kelwi Elementary School.

Packages containing various food items, rice, sandals and clothes, school bags were given to students.

Pala'wan kids were given candies and chocolates.

Residents and IPs were grateful for all of these blessing from the LGU Brooke's Point, Provincial Government of Palawan, Brgy Saraza, Brooke Point, PIGLAS-Palawan, One Arellano Builders, KIWANIS Club of Palawan, KIWANIS Club of PPC, Cardinal AGRI, Ms. Catherine Barraquillo and Secret Happy Giver, the 3rd Marine Brigade and the AFP Western Command. **WESCOM/MCAG**

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

