

*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

23 September 2017

**Saturday**

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

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 23 SEPTEMBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A15
<b>HEADLINE NEWS</b>			
2-4	Hazing suspect surrenders	Jeffrey Damicog	Mla. Times p.1
<b>ARMY NEWS</b>			
5	Soldier hunted for expose	Julie Alipala	PDI p.A14
6	Marawi soldiers promoted, kids get scholarships	Jaime Laude	Phil. Star p.13
7	Soldier, CAFGUs charged in deadly bar melee	Joseph Jubelag	Mla. Bulletin p.8
8	Ex-rebels receive assistance funds	Joseph Jubelag	Mla. Bulletin p.8
9-10	NPA rebels burn cargo truck in Agusan del Sur	Mike Crismundo	Mla. Bulletin p.8
11	Troops, NPA clash in Cotabato	Dempsey Reyes	Mla. Times p.A7
12	Anim sa NPA sumuko	Fer Taboy	Balita p.5
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
13	Duterte: Marawi battle in final stage	Jeoffrey Maitem	PDI p.A8
14	Duterte to lift ML once Marawi is cleared	Genalyn Kabiling	Mla. Bulletin p.9
15-16	Duterte to lift Mindanao Martial law 'anytime'	Llanesca Panti	Mla. Times p.A1
17	Gov't to build 'mini city' for Marawi residents	Argyll Cyrus Geducos	Mla. Bulletin p.2
18	Photo: Almost over	Malacañang Photo	PDI p.A1
19	Parojinog helped fund Marawi siege – Rody	Christina Mendez	Phil. Star p.13
20-21	'Parojinog used drug money to fund Maute'	Dempsey Reyes	Mla. Times p.A8
22	'IS extremist threat spilling over to other parts in south'	John Paolo Bencito	Mla. Standard p.A1
23	Photo: Northern Naval Force Anniversary	Freddie Lazaro	Mla. Bulletin p.6
<b>COMMENTARY/EDITORIAL</b>			
24	To rebuild Marawi		PDI p.A1
25-26	Martial law should not be the option for Duterte	Satur Ocampo	Phil. Star p.9
27	Pabagu-bago ang sinasabi sa peace talk		Ngayon p.4

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

**ONLINE NEWS**

28-29	<b>Battle for Marawi deepens Philippine's budget challenge</b>		<a href="http://www.thediplomat.com">www.thediplomat.com</a>
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23 September 2017



Page: ALC

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 SATURDAY**

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON AND VISAYAS LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 195 KM EAST OF LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY (As of 4:00 PM - September 22, 2017)

**LAOAG CITY** 24 - 30 °C

**TUGUEGARAO CITY** 25 - 31 °C

**BAGUID CITY** 16 - 22 °C

**SBMA/CLARK** 24 - 30 °C

**METRO MANILA** 24 - 29 °C

**TAGAYTAY CITY** 24 - 27 °C

**LEGAZPI CITY** 24 - 29 °C

**ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY** 24 - 30 °C

**TACLOBAN CITY** 24 - 30 °C

**METRO CEBU** 25 - 32 °C

**CAGAYAN DE ORO** 24 - 31 °C

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** 24 - 32 °C

**METRO DAVAO** 25 - 31 °C

**SUNRISE** 5:45 AM

**SUNSET** 5:52 PM

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**MOONRISE** 8:08 AM

**MOONSET** 8:11 PM

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**NEW MOON** SEP 20 1:30 PM

**FIRST QUARTER** SEP 28 10:54 AM

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**LOW TIDE** 5:46 AM

**HIGH TIDE** 12:13 PM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR

0.26 Meter 0.83 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

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City	24-25	26-27	28-29	30-31
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25-30 °C	25-31 °C	22-28 °C	22-29 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25-31 °C	26-33 °C	24-30 °C	26-32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	25-30 °C	25-31 °C	25-30 °C	25-30 °C
<b>BAGUID</b>	16-22 °C	16-24 °C	25-31 °C	26-32 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24-31 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	22-28 °C	22-29 °C	24-30 °C	26-32 °C
<b>LEGAZPI</b>	24-30 °C	26-32 °C	24-30 °C	26-32 °C
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25-30 °C	25-30 °C	25-30 °C	25-30 °C
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	25-31 °C	26-32 °C	25-31 °C	26-32 °C
<b>METRO CEBU</b>	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C
<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24-30 °C	24-31 °C	24-30 °C	24-31 °C
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	24-32 °C	24-32 °C	24-32 °C	24-32 °C
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	25-32 °C	25-33 °C	25-32 °C	25-33 °C
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	25-32 °C	25-33 °C	25-32 °C	25-33 °C

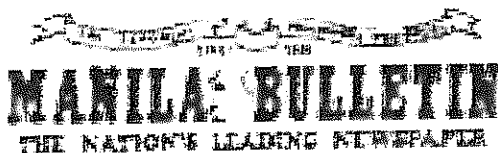
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

SABOT HO. PROBLEMA HO!

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

23

September 2017



Page: 1

# Hazing suspect surrenders

## Castillo's parents oppose any move to turn Solano as state witness

By JEFFREY G. DAMICO, JANNIE ROSE R. ABERIA, and ANNA LIZA W. ALAVANEK

The main suspect in the death of University of Santo Tomas (UST) law freshman Horacio "Atio" Castillo III surrendered to Senator Panfilo Lacson on Friday.

The surrender of John Paul Solano, the person who took Castillo to the Chinese General Hospital, came as Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, citing the revelations of two probable witnesses, revealed that the Aegis Juris fraternity has allegedly restrained its members from talking about the initiation

rites that led to the death of Castillo.

"Ang sabi sa amin, senior members of the frat ayaw sila palabasin, ayaw pagsali-tain at invoke na daw code of silence (We were told that senior fraternity members would not allow them to go out or talk and were ordered to invoke the code of silence)," Aguirre said.

Solano, who was clean-shaven, was accompanied by his lawyer when he

1-9

# Hazing suspect...

◀1

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surrendered to Lacson at the senator's office at the Bonifacio Global City. He was earlier named by the Manila Police District (MPD) as the primary suspect in Castillo's death.

Also named suspects were Antonio Trangia and his son Ralph, who are both at large. Ralph has already fled the country, taking an Eva Airways flight bound for Taiwan.

With Ralph fleeing the country, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said that other persons tagged by police as possible suspects in the killing of Castillo will no longer have any chance to leave the country.

BI spokesperson lawyer Ma Antonette Mangrobang said individuals who were subjects of an immigration lookout bulletin order (ILBO) should present an allow departure order (ADO) from the Department of Justice (DOJ) if they want to leave the country.

Those in the ILBO are Solano, Ralph Trangia, Arvin Balag, Mhin Wei Chan, Marc Anthony Ventura, Axel Munro Hipe, Oliver John Audrey Onofre, Joshuo Joriel Macabali, Jason Adolfo Robinos, Ranie Rafael Santiago, Danielle Hans Matthew Rodrigo, Carl Matthew Villanueva, Aeron Salientes, Marcelino Bactang, Zimon Padro, and Jose Miguel Salamat.

On Friday, Aguirre ordered the inclusion of Ged Villanueva, Milfren Alvarado, Daniel Ragos, and Dave Felix in the ILBO.

Aguirre told immigration officers to immediately inform his office, the Office of the Prosecutor General, and the office of Senior Supt. Danilo Macerin of Manila Police District (MPD) "any pertinent information, especially those tending to indicate that the subject individuals are attempting to leave the country, and in order to obtain updates as to the status of the investigations and other relevant information that may be the basis for the proper course of action to be taken by the immigration officers."

## Solano apologizes

At a press conference at Lacson's Bonifacio Global City office, Solano said he was innocent.

"It is getting worse. I want to clear my name. I know myself, I am innocent," Solano told Lacson.

Solano also apologized for making a false statement. He had initially told police that he does not know Castillo, saying he just found the victim's body on a pavement in Balut, Tondo, Manila.

But MPD investigators later found out that Solano is a member of the Aegis Juris, the fraternity suspected of being involved in the initiation rites that led to the death of Castillo.

"I would like to apologize for giving a false statement for that matter to the

family of Atio [Castillo], for the death of their son. I would shed light to this matter through my attorney," he told reporters.

Solano denied any involvement in the initiation rites for Castillo, saying his role is only to provide medical assistance.

Solano, a registered medical technologist, said he tried to resuscitate Castillo but when he failed to revive him, he took him to the hospital.

"I'm a medical health provider. They would call me," Solano said without elaborating.

He declined to give further comments, saying his lawyer will release his official sworn statement.

Solano was later turned over to the MPD, where he will be investigated.

Solano, who was wearing a black shirt and a cap, arrived at MPD before 4 p.m.

"Kami ay nagpapasalamat kay Sen. Lacson, school authorities ng UST, at sa lahat ng tumulong para magkaroon ng breakthrough sa kaso ni Castillo," MPD spokesman Supt. Erwin Margarejo said.

Margarejo said Solano is set to undergo booking procedures and medical checkup. They are also waiting for his legal counsel.

He also called on Solano's fraternity brothers to surface now.

"Nananawagan kami sa kanila. Ito na ang tamang panahon na magpaliwanag sa nangyaring insidente," Margarejo said.

Police are now readying cases of perjury and violation of anti-hazing law against Solano, who had earlier said he is ready to face any charges that may be filed against him.

## 'No to Solano as witness'

Carmina Castillo, Atio's mother, said they welcome the news that Solano has surfaced. "At least, someone can narrate to us how my son died." However, she is against any move to have Solano turn as state witness.

Even if it hurts her, Carmina likewise said she wants to meet the 16 members of Aegis Juris fraternity linked to the killing of his son.

"I really want to see them all. I want to talk them all, I want every detail, I want to know how he (Atio) died," said Carmina.

She also wants to ask Solano why Atio was not rushed to the hospital.

"He (Solano) was there... Why did they not bring Atio to the hospital? If only they rush him there. UST was there..." said Carmina.

Horacio, Atio's father, urged parents of the fraternity members involved in the hazing that led to Atio's death to let their children come out.

"Well as a parent, I know how hurtful it is when their children are involved.

Local: 5285, 5295

Local: 5285, 5295

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But somehow, it would be easier if they would let their children come out clean. Hiding their children seems a crime,” said the elder Horacio.

Like Castillo’s parents, Senators Juan Miguel “Migz” Zubiri and Sherwin Gatchalian welcomed Solano’s surrender.

“The others involved should now come out of the shadows and tell all they know about Atio’s death,” said Zubiri as he lauded UST Civil Law Dean Nilo Divina for facilitating the surrender.

“This is a chance for him to explain to the whole nation about what happened to Castillo and who were the people involved in this brutal scheme,” Gatchalian said. (With reports from Jun Ramirez, Mario B. Casayuran, and Hannah L. Torregoza)

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23 September 2017



Page: A14

# Soldier hunted for exposé

**Whistle-blower fears for family**

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Army corporal, who turned whistle-blower on alleged fund misuse in his mother unit, claimed he was now being hunted by the military and placed under surveillance.

Melvin Alfonso, formerly with the 7th Infantry Division (ID) based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija province, said soldiers had been casing the house of his father here after reports about his exposé came out.

Alfonso also said an unidentified officer called up his wife to ask where he was and to warn that people were after him.

The officer supposedly told Alfonso's wife that intelligence personnel were sent to his father's house here.

Alfonso said, however, that the military men who went to his father's house wanted to bring him back to Fort Magsaysay, the 7th ID base.

"My father, my wife and children are very affected," Alfonso said. "I know they are living in fear like me and I am helpless, hiding," he said.

Alfonso started revealing in May 2017 supposed irregularities at the 7th ID in a letter addressed to President Duterte.

## Return to sender

He said he discovered the fund misuse, involving funds labeled as "return to sender" (RTS), as a staffer of the Management and Fiscal Office (MFO) of the division.

While on duty at the MFO, which supervises three brigades and six battalions, Alfonso said the misuse of funds shocked him.

In his letter to the President, Alfonso cited an example of how funds were misused.

Out of a P10-million budget for the division, he said only P2 million was actually used and P8 million labeled RTS.

The P8 million would be with-

drawn from government banks and delivered to senior division officials.

"My senior officers told me not to ask anymore because it was part of the Army tradition," Alfonso said in his letter. He did not identify any officer, though.

For every RTS, Alfonso said staffers at the MFO get P5,000-P10,000 from their superior officers.

He said he once delivered millions of pesos in cash to the MFO of the Army's general headquarters (GHQ) in Fort Bonifacio.

Alfonso became a signatory to conversion of funds in 2016.

## Fake receipts

"It came to a point [where] I was directed to make vouchers, check dispositions, recording process of the budget, or convert an ASA (advise for suballotment) e-mail from the MFO GHQ to funds, and we have personnel tasked to produce fake receipts," he said in his letter.

Alfonso said all the disbursements and transactions passed through the Commission on Audit (COA) without scrutiny.

When he could not stand it anymore, he said he went into vacation.

His furlough expired on Oct. 31, 2016 and went absent without leave, fearing for his and his family's lives.

After he sent the letter about the fund misuse to Mr. Duterte, Alfonso was called to Malacañang on June 7 and met with lawyers of the Presidential Action Center, whom he identified in his letter as Daryl Ritchie Vallez, Rosbert Serona and Monica Calimbas-Lizaso.

He was told the President was too busy and that his letter would be referred to the Department of Defense.

"Since then the threats and harassment have become intense," he said. —JULIE ALIPALA INQ

5



23 September 2017



Page: 3

## Marawi soldiers promoted, kids get scholarships

At least 15 soldiers fighting in Marawi have been promoted.

The soldiers received their new rank insignias in Barangay Mapandi on Monday during a ceremony presided by Maj. Gen. Rolly Bautista, First Infantry or Tabak Division commander.

The newly promoted soldiers belong to the 10th Infantry Battalion.

Bautista said the promotion was in recognition of the troops' selfless service to the people of Marawi. He said it is incumbent on the military leadership to sustain the high morale of the troops.

"In this final stage of the assaults, we will win the war against terrorism in Marawi City," he said.

As this developed, Armed

Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año handed scholarship certificates to the children of T/Sgt. Aldrin Dinglasan, Pfc. Jobert Hollero and S/Sgt. Larry Lopez, who were slain in the fighting in Marawi.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief, said the children would receive monthly tuition and stipend

until they finish college.

Except for one of Dinglasan's children, who is a fourth year college student, the other beneficiaries are either in grade school or kindergarten.

Officials said Hollero's infant child is also assured of monthly educational assistance upon reaching school age.

– Jaime Laude, Michael Punongbayan

23 September 2017

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

Page: 8

## Soldier, CAFGUs charged in deadly bar melee

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

ALABEL, Sarangani – Police filed on Thursday homicide charges against an Army soldier and two militiamen, who figured in a melee at a karaoke bar here that resulted in the killing of a fisherman and his companion last September 19.

Sr. Insp. Benjie Ancheta, Alabel police chief, identified the suspects as Corp. Gilbert Solomon, a member of 73rd Infantry Battalion (73IB) assigned as detachment commander in Barangay Paraiso, here and Delion Baan and Josue Diagan, both members of the Special Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) active auxiliary.

Ancheta said the three were tagged as suspects in the killing of Alejandro

Yatot and the wounding of Jonathan Brocoy during a brawl at a karaoke bar in Barangay Poblacion here.

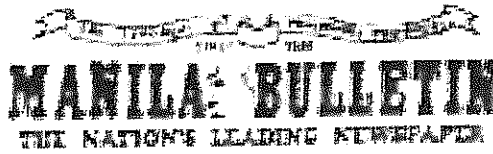
Police said the melee started after the suspects reportedly took sexual advances on the wife of Brocoy, who they mistook as entertainer at the bar.

Solomon, who was armed with a .45 caliber pistol, shot the victims after they reportedly ganged up on him.

The suspects immediately escaped after the incident, but were later turned over to the police by 73IB Bravo Company Commander First Lt. Jaroun Onggog.

Capt. Rudini Bugador, 73rd IB civil military operations officer, said the suspects will be placed under police custody to face the charges filed against them.

23 September 2017

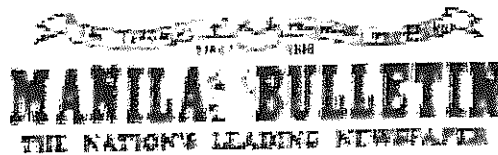


Page: 2

● **Ex-rebels receive assistance funds**

DIGOS CITY, Davao del Sur - The provincial government here has released on Tuesday about P350,000 funding assistance to at least seven former New People's Army rebels who earlier surrendered to military authorities. Lt. Col. Marion Angcao, 73rd Infantry Battalion commander, said Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas released the P50,000 check to each of the former seven rebels. He said the funds were sourced out of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). (Joseph Jubelag)

23 September 2017



Page: 8

## NPA rebels burn cargo truck in Agusan del Sur

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**  
and **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

**BUTUAN CITY** – About 40 heavily armed New People's Army (NPA) rebels swooped down on a farm company on Thursday, and set ablaze a cargo tanker loaded with palm oil products in Sitio Marangan, Barangay Basa, Trento, Agusan del Sur, a sketchy report reaching this city on Friday said.

An initial report received at the command and tactical operation center of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) based in Camp Rafael C. Rodriguez here from Agusan del Sur Police Provincial Office (PPO) said the rebels, wearing green sweat shirts with markings "Bagong Hukbong Bayan" (BHB), and armed with AK 47 rifles, flagged down a cargo Isuzu tanker at 8:45 a.m. along an agricultural road on Thursday, and ordered the driver to dis-embark.

It was also reported that the cargo truck was escorted by members of

Agumil Philippines Inc. when it was stopped by the rebels.

They then proceeded to disarm one of the escorts of his 9mm-pistol.

"Thereafter, the other unidentified suspects chased the other escorts (away from the scene), and shot the said oil tanker several times hitting the left side that caused the oil to spill out. The suspects then burned the tanker," an initial report from Agusan del Sur PPO said.

The truck was loaded with 19,000 kilos of palm oil products with estimated market value of ₱665,000.

The truck was travelling from Agumil heading towards Butuan City when the incident took place.

No one was harmed in the incident, the report added.

None of the other unarmed escorts and the driver was harmed during the burning incident, field report said.

Meanwhile, government troops were reported to be hot on the heels of a band of communist rebels, which tried to sow terror in a remote village

in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur

Lt. Col. Marion Angcao, 73rd Infantry Battalion commander, said troopers, led by First Lt. Darryl Cansancio, encountered on Thursday about 20 insurgents in the hinterland sitio of Asbalingan, Barangay Abnate, Kiblawan.

Angcao said the soldiers responded to reports provided by local residents that the NPA rebels, led by a certain Commander Jam-Jam or Borjack, were sighted in the area to conduct recruitment and extortion activities.

The rebels were tagged responsible for the burning a backhoe owned by a local contractor who was undertaking a government-road construction project in Barangay Malawanit, Magsaysay, Davao del Sur last September 16.

He said the 20-minute firefight resulted in the seizure of three high-powered firearms including M-16, Ak-47 and Garand rifles and other subversive documents which were left behind by the fleeing rebels, many of whom were believed wounded as evidenced of the bloodstains in the scene of encounter.

After the incident, the perpetrators fled away heading towards

unknown direction.

Recovered from the crime scene were fired cartridge cases believed to be AK47 rifle.

As of this posting, joint personnel from Trento Municipal Police Station, Agusan del Sur Police Public Safety Company, SWAT team and Army's 25th Infantry Battallion are still conducting hot pursuit and clearing operation in the area.

Estimated total damage on truck and palm oil products amounted to more than ₱2,000,000.00.

Meanwhile, PRO 13 Regional Director Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix yesterday ordered the deployment of regional and provincial mobile forces to assist in the pursuit and blocking positions in any possible escape route of the fleeing rebels.

The fleeing rebels were believed members of the CPP-NPA Northeastern or Southern Mindanao Regional Committees, military and police intelligence sources said.

23 September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

## Troops, NPA rebels clash in Cotabato

At least 20 New People's Army (NPA) members were encountered by Army troops in Magpet, North Cotabato on Friday triggering a 30-minute firefight forcing the rebels to retreat.

The Philippine Army's 39th Infantry Battalion reported that their unit engaged the communist rebels believed to be from the NPA's Pulang Bagani Company 2.

Col. Roberto Ancan, commander of the 1002nd Infantry Brigade, said the encounter in Sitio Kinampang, Barangay

Balite was provided with a "close air support" by MG250 helicopters.

No casualties were reported on the side of the government forces but the 39th Infantry Battalion said bloodstains along the NPA position at the encounter site were found.

Seized from the site after the encounter were least 15 kilos of improvised explosive device, a hand grenade, 100-rounds of ammunition, four backpacks and subversive documents.

**DEMPSEY REYES**

23 September 2017



Page. 5

### Anim sa NPA sumuko

Nagbalik-loob sa pamahalaan ang anim na miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Northern Samar nitong Huwebes, kasabay ng paggunita sa ika-45 anibersaryo ng deklarasyon ng martial law, inilat ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kahapon.

Sinabi ni Capt. Frederico Morales, hepe ng Philippine Army Civil Military Operation ng 803rd Infantry Brigade, isinuko rin ng mga rebelde ang ilang matataas na kalibre ng bari.

Hindi na kinilala ni Morales ang mga sumukong rebelde na galing sa iba't ibang munisipalidad sa Northern Samar, para na rin sa kaligtasan ng mga ito.

Umaming hirap na sa buhaysa kabundukan, nakatanggap ang mga sumukong rebelde ng P50,000 ayudang pinansiyal, kabilang ang livelihood assistance.

**Fer Taboy**

23 September 2017

INQUIRER

Page: AB

# Duterte: Marawi battle in final stage

MARAWI CITY—President Duterte on Thursday said the Marawi battle against the Maute group and its allies—now on its fourth month—was on its final stage.

Speaking to reporters here during a surprise visit amid protests denouncing his administration, Duterte said the operation was nearing conclusion.

“The Armed Forces is winding up,” he said.

Duterte said the crisis had dragged into weeks because of the presence of hostages, whose lives the military wanted to spare even as soldiers were dying in the fighting.

At least 151 soldiers and policemen had died in the crisis that started on May 23, when

government troops tried to serve warrants against Maute group leaders and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

“What delayed us before is just the same. As much as possible, we do not want any of the hostages taken by the terrorists harmed or killed,” Duterte said.

## No celebration

The President also said that once the city had been fully liberated from the Maute group and its allies, no celebration would take place because “no one really won here.”

Earlier, Col. Romeo Brawner, the Joint Task Force Marawi deputy commander, said at least 200 structures had not been cleared yet. These struc-

tures were within the less than 20 hectares of area where the gunmen had been pushed into.

“We have expected to experience more firefights as we try to regain more ground,” he said.

However, he said the military was also careful because of the presence of hostages—estimated to number between 40 and 45.

On Saturday, government security forces captured two strongholds of the Islamic State-inspired militants during a major offensive, which also saw the rescue of captive priest Teresito Soganub and another hostage.

The Bato Ali Mosque and the Jamiatu Marawi Al-Islamia Foundation were used by the gunmen as their command center.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the retaking of the two structures was not easy as soldiers had to fight the gunmen for about five hours.

Año said the military viewed the recapture of the structures as “an enormous gain.”

Joint Task Force Marawi chief, Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, said the military was expecting more areas to be captured amid resistance from remaining Maute gunmen, now being commanded by Omar Maute and Hapilon.

## Little resistance

“We are ready for that. The AFP will press on relentlessly until conclusion,” he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin

Lorenzana also earlier said that the military was already close to retaking the city.

“There’s only little resistance left. This is just one-half village wide. That’s why I’ve been told by my ground commanders that the end is near. Just a little more patience,” he said last week.

The President also revealed that politicians were behind the Maute group and that they will also be hunted down.

“How come the Maute and the terrorist were able to stockpile so much ordnance, bullets and improvised explosive device. The terrorists here is funding them including politicians. Politicians here including in Central Mindanao,” he said.

Duterte said he would lift martial law in Mindanao once the city had been declared safe from the terrorists.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales, the commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, said on Friday that Hata Lantud, the half-brother of Pantao Ragat Mayor Lacson Lantud, was among the five militants killed inside the main battle area on Sept. 15 and whose body had been recovered.

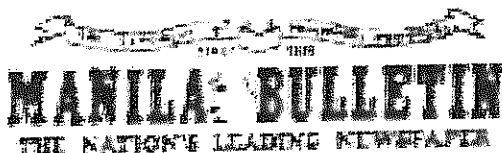
“We only learned from Marawi community leaders that the slain militant was the brother of a town mayor,” Ordiales said.

Ordiales said they also learned that the slain militant had been disowned by his family.

—JEFFREY MAITEM INQ



23 September 2017

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

Page: 9

# Duterte to lift ML once Marawi is cleared

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

**P**resident Duterte is mulling the lifting of martial law (ML) in Mindanao once government troops have completed their clearing operations in Marawi City and thwarted any spillover elsewhere.

In his return visit to the besieged city last Thursday, the President said the troops are still clearing the area of explosives which were “hidden and planted” by the Maute rebels to ensure the safety of residents once they return to the conflict-torn city.

“It will be lifted anytime after things are all ready. There’s a cleanup and we

can make sure that it doesn’t end with the physical fighting,” Duterte said about the martial law proclamation he imposed last May 23 in the region.

“There’s much to be done [like] rebuilding [Marawi and] of course getting rid of the remaining explosives which are hidden or planted along the way. It’s not really for us but for the people of Marawi to give them protection,” he said.

The government must also ensure there would be no spillover of the Marawi fighting in other parts of the region, according to the President.

“The catch word is when it’s safe here in Mindanao. There is no spillage... as long as it remains manage-

able and the police can take care of it,” Duterte said.

“I have to clean the place and watch out if there will be a spillover of any sympathetic group that would initiate trouble again,” he added.

Last May 23, the President issued Proclamation No. 216 imposing a 60-day martial law in Mindanao aimed to quell lawless violence and rebellion. The rebellion, launched by the Maute Group and the Abu Sayyaf Group, was fueled by drug money and foreign terror support.

The martial law proclamation has been extended until the end of the year to completely address the lingering security threat.

Duterte said the resolution of the conflict in Marawi is “just around the corner” as the military is “winding up” operations in the area.

But he ruled out any victory celebration when the fighting is over.

Once the area has been cleared of the rebels, the President said the military would quietly pack up and leave Marawi City as rehabilitation efforts begin. There was no reason to celebrate victory in deference to the casualties of war, he added.

“We will not have any celebration after all (that) has been said and done,” the commander-in-chief said. “Walang nanalo dito [No one won here]. We’re

all losers,” he added.

The President however proposed a “thanksgiving mass not only for those living but especially for those soldiers who died along the way.”

Government troops have been battling with the Maute terrorists for more than three months now. The operations have been calibrated to ensure the safety of hostages still being held by the remnants of the Maute Group in the area.

Duterte’s fifth visit to the war-torn city coincided with the National Day of Protest when various groups launched protest actions to voice their grievances against the government.

23 September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

## NO CELEBRATION, MILITARY TOLD DUTERTE TO LIFT MINDANAO

### MARTIAL LAW 'ANYTIME'

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday night said he would lift martial law in Mindanao "anytime" soon after the military was done with its clearing operations in war-torn Marawi City.

"It will be lifted anytime. The Armed Forces are winding up [their operations] but there are still hostages. We do not want anybody taken hostage by the terrorists harmed or killed," Duterte told reporters on his fifth visit to Marawi City.

Fighting between the military and the Maute group terrorists who attacked the Islamic City on May 23 is entering its fourth month.

The President cautioned the military against celebrating the looming liberation of Marawi from terrorists.

"We will not have any celebration. We shall go home quietly. They (military) will pack their bags and maybe say goodbye to the people of Marawi," Duterte said.

The President's statements were confirmed by Palace spokesman

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■ LIFT FROM A1

## DUTERTE

Ernesto Abella on Friday

"President Duterte will lift martial law in Mindanao as soon as the clearing operations are done and the city is fully liberated," Abella said in a statement.

A total of 673 terrorists, 47 civilians and 149 government troopers have died since the clashes started, according to official data.

### Thanksgiving Mass

Instead of a celebration, President Duterte said there would be a thanksgiving Mass for the soldiers who fought lawless elements in Marawi, as well as their comrades who died in the line of duty.

"This is not really a celebration because nobody won here. We [in the government] do not claim any victory over you if you were killed

or you have suffered. Lives were lost, and there are those who were wounded," Duterte said.

"We did not start this ruckus. We don't need any trouble now. As I have said before, my grandmother is from here [in Marawi]. I'll be the last person to pick a fight," Duterte added.

President Duterte declared martial law and ordered warrantless arrests in Mindanao on May 23 to suppress a supposed rebellion led by the Maute group.

Congress extended his declaration of martial law until the end of the year during a joint session in July.

The military's celebration of the retaking of Camp Abubakar from the separatist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in July 2000 generated controversy. The Philippine flag was raised in an "assertion of sovereignty" and there was feasting on truckloads of beer and roast pork inside the camp, which is forbidden by Islam.

LLANESCA T. PANTI



**FIFTH VISIT** President Rodrigo Duterte, this time without combat gear, speaks to the troops in Marawi City Thursday evening, in his fifth visit to the war-torn city since his declaration of martial law over Mindanao in May. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, securing the future.

23 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN

Page: 2

# Gov't to build 'mini city' for Marawi residents

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**T**he government is set to build a 'mini city' for the citizens displaced by the war in Marawi City as it is estimated that the rebuilding of the besieged city might take two to three years.

The war against the Daesh-inspired Maute group in Marawi enters its fourth month on Saturday, Sept. 23.

According to the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) spokesperson Romina Marasigan, the Task Force Bangon Marawi is now planning the construction of 1,500 transitional houses in a 14-hectare land at an estimated cost of ₱160,000 per unit.

The Task Force was initially looking into constructing 1,100 houses at a 10-hectare land in Barangay Sagonsongan, the approved transitional site which is approximately 3.6 kilometers from the main battle area.

"The reason kung bakit ginagawa na 'to na parang city na siya [is] because inaasahan natin (The reason why we are making it like a city is because we are expecting that) it would still take a lot of [time before Marawi gets rehabilitated]—I mean, initially," Marasigan said during the Mindanao Hour/Bangon Marawi press briefing Friday morning.

"Initial pa lang naman na discussions 'to kasi hindi pa tapos ang ating assessment. Mga around two, three years kasi tinitingnan natin (This is just from our initial discussions because our assessment is not yet complete. We are looking at around two to three years before the city gets rehabilitated)," she added.

Marasigan also explained that it would be better to build a mini city because according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the government would be 'rebuilding' and not just do some repairs in the besieged city.

"So nagbubuo tayo ng community kasi kailangan may feeling 'yung ating IDPs--may (We decided to start a community because the Internally Displaced Persons need to have a) semblance of normalcy in the transitional shelters," she said.

Marasigan also said that the government is allocating ₱5 billion for the transition. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is also looking into sourcing additional funds from the savings of other government agencies, she said.

"Ito 'yung mga tinitingnan at ine-explore natin, para ma-sustain 'yung ating pagbibigay ng ayuda sa ating mga kababayan na nandoon ngayon sa Iligan at 'yung other pa na mga areas sa evacuation centers (These are the things that we are looking into to sustain the assistance that we are extending to the Marawi IDPs in Iligan City and other areas)," Marasigan said.

According to Marasigan, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have completed the access roads in the transitional shelter site.

Citing the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, she said the units which will be used for the transitional shelters will be a steel wall sandwich model.

"This is a pre-fabricated house which is single detached, with toilet and bath. And they are also having a 22 square meters area. But the lot area would be 54 square meters," Marasigan said.

23 September 2017

Page: A1



ALMOST OVER President Duterte meets with military officials during a visit to Marawi on Thursday when he said the fighting was "winding up." – MALACANANG PHOTO

23 September 2017



Page: 13

# Parojinog helped fund Marawi siege – Rody

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and JAIME LAUDE

Slain Ozamiz Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog was among the local officials who provided funding to Maute militants who attacked and occupied Marawi, President Duterte has said.

The President showed a so-called matrix of funding sources of the Maute group to soldiers fighting in Marawi during his visit to Camp Ranao on Thursday.

The President said some local officials in Central Mindanao are also financing terrorists, but did not elaborate.

Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año said Mayor Montasir Sabal of Talitay, Maguindanao is another alleged narco politician who helped finance Maute militants.

Sabal has been in hiding since the Office of the Om-

budsman ordered his dismissal last month for misdeclaring his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Año said the matrix presented by the President was based on a report of the military. He declined to identify the other supposed Maute financiers, saying it is premature.

"It's a confidential document, but the President already mentioned the involvement of Parojinog," Año said.

At a press conference after visiting the soldiers in Marawi, the President tagged Iloilo City Mayor Patrick Jed Mabilog again in the illegal

drug trade.

"He is out of the country because he's afraid to suffer the fate of Parojinog," Duterte said.

Mabilog, who according to his lawyer has been affected by the President's accusations, filed a sick leave until the end of the month to seek treatment abroad.

## Wiretapped

The President also admitted that he ordered the wiretapping of certain politicians whom he accused of protecting drug lords.

"I was listening... Don't ask me how, what kind of listening device... It was a whisper from God and I was listening... They were all tapped," he said.

Asked about Duterte's admission that certain officials

had been wiretapped, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said he has to clarify the matter with the Chief Executive.

However, Abella said he believes that being a lawyer, the President "was operating within the bounds of the law."

## 'Hapilon still alive'

Meanwhile, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon said terrorist Isnilon Hapilon is still alive and remains holed up in Marawi.

"Isnilon Hapilon is still in the battle area. There are many indications of that," Esperon said yesterday.

He appealed for patience from the public, saying government troops are close to finishing off the remaining members of the Maute group.

– With Jose Rodel Clapano

23

September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

## 'Parojinog used drug money to fund Maute'

EVEN in death, the late Ozamiz City mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. continues to stir controversy. Not only has he been linked to illegal drugs but to terrorist activities as well, allegedly using money from the sale of illegal substances to fund Islamist extremist groups like Maute, Armed Forces Chief Eduardo Año said on Friday.

Quoting "confidential" military reports gathered from the ground, Año told reporters Parojinog was allegedly involved in the crisis in Marawi City.

It was the same information President Rodrigo Duterte presented to troops in the war-torn city in his fifth visit on Thursday.

"When we tried to dig up everything [about Parojinog's involvement], and every information about this – how the Maute got this enormous money in doing this rebellion – part of that fund came from drugs so we made the study and we analyzed and evaluated it and that was the result of our

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■ FUND FROM A1

## Parojinog

report," Año told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

On June 6, Marines in Marawi City recovered P79 million in bundled cash and checks in a house in Barangay Saduc previously used by the Maute as a hideout and storage area.

Año said it was also possible that the recovered banknotes and checks in June were drug money coming from the Maute's alleged politician backers, particularly from Parojinog.

"It is also possible that it came from what they looted from banks and private residences in Marawi City," he said.

Año compared the drug cartel of the Maute brothers inside Marawi City with "Narcos," an American crime drama web television series about Columbian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

The AFP chief came up with the comparison since the Maute

brothers were engaged in a "cartel-style" drug operation in the provinces of Lanao and Misamis.

Aside from Parojinog, Año said former Talitay Maguindanao Mayor Montasir Sabal was also included in the President's drug matrix.

"Parojinog was the only one mentioned by the President and it would be hard if we would accuse [other politicians], but Mayor Sabal, who is included in the list, has now gone into hiding," the military chief said.

Sabal was dismissed by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales in August for allegedly misdeclaring his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) in 2011, 2013 and 2014.

Parojinog, his wife Susan, and Misamis Occidental Board Member Octavio Parojinog Jr. were among those killed during a police drug raid in their residence in San Roque Lawis, Ozamiz City on July 29.

## Raping female hostages

Año also said that there were reports coming from the debriefing of surrenderees and captured Maute members, that female hostages were being raped.

"Sad to say, we received reports from the debriefing that there are female hostages being raped by the Maute," he said.

## 'Dansalan, Lanao areas not yet safe'

Even if President Duterte traveled by land from Iligan to Marawi City in his fifth visit, Año said it was still not safe for residents to travel on routes going to Dansalan and Lanao areas in the besieged city.

"The last two days, we got casualties of sniping although [the troops] were only wounded and were far from the MBA (main battle area)," the AFP chief noted.

He reminded the residents that the military would be giving the green light once the areas were "completely cleared" of Maute presence and even of booby traps

planted by the terrorists.

Año also clarified that the President did not travel across the main battle zone and noted that routes going to Mindanao State University and the Capitol were safe.

During the visit, Año said Duterte congratulated the troops for retaking key structures, the occupation of vital installations in Marawi City and the rescue of Catholic priest Father Teresito "Chito" Soganub.

Soganub was retrieved by troops in Bato Ali Mosque, the second grand Islamic mosque in Marawi City.

"He (Duterte) is asking for patience and he said that he does not want to have any kind of celebration once the crisis in Marawi has ended. So, we will just leave quietly but ensure security will continue so the rehabilitation and reconstruction will be conducted without being threatened by other enemies or lawless elements," the AFP chief said.

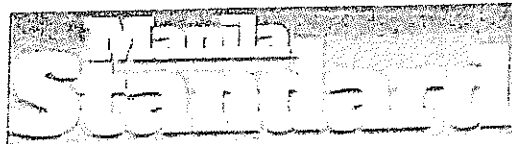
**DEMPSEY REYES**

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23 September 2017



Page:   A1  

# 'IS extremist threat spilling over to other parts in south'

By John Paolo Bencito

SPORATIC fighting between government troops and some Moro groups suggests that the threat of Islamic State-inspired extremists from Marawi City is spilling over to other parts of Mindanao, President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday night.

In Cotabato, Duterte said, Moro Islamic Liberation Front fighters and government troops battled the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, which has aligned itself with the Maute group, the ISIS-inspired terrorists that overran Marawi City.

*Next page*

## 'IS extremist...

*From A1*

The President also said "raw" members of the Moro National Liberation Front and the MILF may have joined enemy lines.

The military is closely watching the boundaries of Butig, Lanao del Sur and Buldon, Maguindanao to prevent any reinforcement of the Maute group in Marawi.

The President met separately with top leaders of the MILF and MNLF last Sept. 14 and 17, requesting assistance on efforts to deal with extremist elements in the country's south.

Police and military forces are not allowed to enter territories of the MILF and the MNLF, due to an existing ceasefire agreement.

Also on Thursday night, Duterte said martial law in Mindanao will be lifted once military operations wind down in Marawi City, and when there's no longer a threat of the fighting spilling over to other areas.

Duterte showed a "matrix" exposing the source of money used to finance the already hundred-day Marawi siege, naming the de-

ceased Ozamis City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog as one of those involved.

The President admitted he had Parojinog and other alleged narco-politicians wiretapped to trace their transactions.

"I was listening to him. Don't ask me what kind of listening device. It was a whisper from god I was listening to. So they were all taped," Duterte said, referring to Parojinog and Iloilo Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog.

"I was the one who ordered it," he said.

Asked about the legality of the President's orders, Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said, "I'm sure that being a lawyer, he was operating within bounds of legality."

Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said a Mindanao-based drug cartel may have funded the Maute terrorists to stage a rebellion in Marawi City, with slain Ozamis City Mayor Parojinog acting as the link to the extremist group.

"The Maute brothers are into drugs. If you are watching the [TV show] Narcos this is the same [setup]."

23 September 2017

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

Page: 6



**NORTHERN NAVAL FORCE ANNIVERSARY** - Vice Admiral Joseph S. Mercado, Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Command, receives a special token and is welcomed by Commodore Erick A. Kagaoan, commander of the Naval Forces Northern Luzon, which marked its 40th founding anniversary last Thursday at Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union. (Freddie G. Lazaro)

23 September 2017

# INQUIRER

Page: A10

## To rebuild Marawi

**T**he crisis in Marawi City is one of the most serious threats to national security in recent memory. What the Duterte administration initially thought would be a short-lived distraction turned into a protracted battle between government troops and the Maute group allied with the Islamic State. Last Sunday, the military announced the capture of the command center of the Mautes who have holed out in Marawi for nearly four months, during which time airstrikes were continuously launched in an effort to drive them out. In the process, the city was devastated: The bombings and gun battles destroyed houses, buildings, mosques and other important infrastructure.

Since May 23 when hundreds of armed Maute fighters occupied the "Islamic City," more than 800 government soldiers, extremists, and civilians have been killed and tens of thousands forced to flee their homes and businesses. Now, as the military starts the "winding up" process, it is time to think of reconstruction as well as the need to help the nearly 200,000 residents displaced by the fighting.

President Duterte earlier promised to provide P20 billion to rehabilitate Marawi and restore it to its former glory. That figure has since changed. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, when asked during a Senate hearing how much would be needed for Marawi's rehabilitation, pegged the amount at P50 billion. In a press briefing in Malacañang days later, he pointed out that when he traveled to Marawi with the President, they saw that the destruction was "really massive" and thought P50 billion would not be enough.

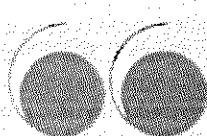
The Department of Budget and Management has earmarked P5 billion in 2017 and P10 billion in 2018 for the rehabilitation program. An additional budget will also be provided in 2019. But these allocations will not be sufficient. In financing the reconstruction, the administration can tap the generosity of the international community despite the President's frequent criticism of foreign governments for commenting on his bloody war

on drugs. Some countries have in fact pledged financial assistance. Australia promised to give P1 billion, the United States said it would provide P730 million, and Japan and Thailand P100 million each. The European Union also committed P49 million, and China said it would give P70 million for the wounded soldiers and P15 million for the rehabilitation process. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have also promised to help. The administration can likewise seek financial assistance from the more affluent Muslim countries.

Moving forward, an important aspect is the appointment of an overseer for the reconstruction of Marawi. And in the crafting of the reconstruction plan, it should be very clear which agency will take the lead, with accountabilities clearly defined. The process of rebuilding—from the ground up for most infrastructure in Marawi—should follow a master plan that will restore the city's charm before the Mautes stormed in. So far, a number of agencies and public institutions want to have a part in the reconstruction effort, including the local government units there. Even the Senate has formed a committee to assess any rebuilding plan.

Task Force Bangon Marawi, put up by the President last June in Administrative Order No. 3, should take on this role. While the task force is headed by Lorenzana and includes the Armed Forces chief of staff, it also has as members the secretaries of non-defense departments critical in the rebuilding process—Public Works, Budget and Management, Information and Communications Technology, Health, Education and Energy.

What the administration will do from hereon will be important to the fate of Marawi and the thousands of residents who fled the fighting and who will be coming back to a nearly flattened city. Drafting a very clear reconstruction program and identifying the person in charge will be a good start to rebuild Marawi.

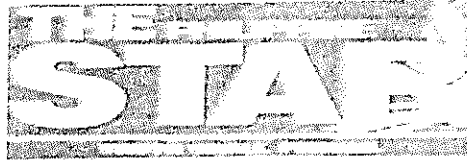


IN THE CRAFTING OF THE RECONSTRUCTION PLAN, IT SHOULD BE VERY CLEAR WHICH AGENCY WILL TAKE THE LEAD, WITH ACCOUNTABILITIES CLEARLY DEFINED

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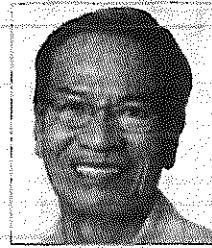
23 September 2017



Page: 9

## AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO



### Martial law should not be the option for Duterte

“Never again to martial law!” was the emphatic, defiant cry that resounded in all of the protest actions held nationwide last Thursday (Sept. 21), the 45th year of Ferdinand E. Marcos’ martial law declaration that ran for 14 years. Although the same cry has been echoed in each of the previous years’ protest actions, it now carries this new connotation:

“No to martial law under the Duterte regime!”

Apparently the message has registered in President Duterte’s mind, relayed by the series of mass actions and public statements in the days leading to Sept. 21. In his Proclamation 319 (dated Sept. 19) declaring Thursday as a National Day of Protest, he acknowledges that the Marcos martial law era “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.”

More, worth noting is this portion of the 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.”

As the protests went on till night – his effigy likening him to Hitler, Marcos, and a lapdog of US imperialism was burned at Mendiola Bridge near Malacanang – Duterte visited his troops in Marawi, accompanied by two of those who had urged him to declare martial law, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año. The AFP troops are said to be “winding down” the nearly four-month battle against the Maute-Abu Sayyaf group in which daily aerial bombings and artillery barrages by government forces have destroyed a large swath of the key Islamic city.

There the President delivered a significant message. The end of the fighting in Marawi, he reportedly said, would signal the lifting of martial law in Mindanao.

Was he trying to assuage the “fear and indignation” of those who have strongly opposed his declaration of martial law in the whole of Mindanao on May 23, its extension till the end of December, and his threat to declare martial law nationwide should the protest actions turn unruly?

Or was he impliedly admitting that, having used the so-called Maute-Abu Sayyaf siege of Marawi as “rebellion” or “invasion” to justify placing the whole of Mindanao under martial law, he made a regrettably precipitate decision?

For one thing, his martial-law declaration has enabled the United States to seize the opportunity to intervene militarily in Marawi and reinforce the presence of US troops in Mindanao and elsewhere in the country. The Americans succeeded in inducing his government and armed forces to adopt the US mode of aerial warfare that has successively devastated large areas of Iraq, Libya,

and Syria and now has reduced to rubble much of Marawi, killing about 800 people and displacing 400,000 residents of the city and surrounding municipalities.

By acceding to the US intervention, Duterte practically discarded his avowed “independent foreign policy” and embraced the proverbial role of his predecessors as chief US imperialist lapdog or lackey.

For another, his government’s excuse that the fighting in Marawi could spill over to the rest of Mindanao has been shown up to be without basis. It was rationalized that the AFP prevented that from happening by conducting checkpoints in many areas of Mindanao; but even that cannot hold, simply because the military have been maintaining checkpoints all along for decades.

For sure there was no factual basis, under the conditions stipulated in the 1987 Constitution, for declaring martial law in the whole of Mindanao. Much less could there be factual basis for declaring martial law in the entire archipelago. Martial law shouldn’t be an option for Duterte.

On Sept. 20, Duterte gave the following reason for declaring martial law on May 23:

“[B]ecause the Constitution mandates that I have to do something about it (the Marawi “siege”), that’s why I declared martial law. And I grieve, because I was the one who told the soldiers, ‘Go there to die.’ So that is my burden.”

Consonant with such sense of burden, Duterte says he is spurning any idea of celebrating victory once the fighting in Marawi ends. He has expressed equal grief over the deaths of government soldiers and of the alleged Islamic extremists who furiously fought the state security forces.

“I do not want any celebration of victory. All of us lost in Marawi,” he said in a government television interview. “Every Moro that died, or every soldier that died, breaks our heart. They’re all Filipinos. Out of respect for those who died and for our fellow Filipinos, nobody will talk about victory or defeat.”

Such a statesmanly and humane stance speaks about a positive side of President Duterte’s persona. Yet, so many wonder why he takes a diametrically opposed stance as regards alleged or suspected illegal drug pushers and users, whom he denigrates as devoid of humanity and deserving to die in the nationwide police anti-drug campaign.

Doesn’t he regard the drug pushers/users as fellow Filipinos too? If his heart breaks over the death in battle of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf extremists, can’t he feel equally touched over the killing of drug pushers/users, whether they fought back or not?

His obsessive statement in Marawi on Thursday will surely continue to spur protests and condemnations here and abroad: “The war on drugs will continue. There will be no letup.”

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23 September 2017



Pahina. 4

### Editorial

## Pabagu-bago ang sinasabi sa peace talk

**N**AKAKALITO na si Pres. Rodrigo Duterte sa mga sinasabi nito ukol sa pakikipag-usap sa Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF). Kamakailan lang sinabi niyang hindi na makikipag-usap kahit kailan sa CPP-NDF. Wala nang peace talks. Nagmura pa siya at nakipag-bangayan kay CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison. Sinabi niyang may colon cancer si Sison.

Pero noong Martes, nagpahiwatig siya na puwede pa raw ituloy ang peace talks sa mga komunista. Ito ay kasunod nang pagpapalaya ng New People's Army (NPA) sa dalawang bihag na sundalo. Biglang nabago ang tono ni Duterte at gusto na namang makipagkasundo sa mga komunista.

Hindi dapat ganito ang ikilos ng Presidente. Dapat mayroon siyang isang salita sa pakikipag-usap sa mga komunista. Dapat may paninindigan sa naunang pinahayag. Hindi lang tatlong beses na nagsabi si Duterte na tapos na ang pakikipag-usap sa CPP-NDF.

Una ay noong Pebrero nang sunud-sunod ang pananambang ng NPA sa mga sundalo. Pinabalik ni Duterte sa barracks ang mga sundalo at pinalilinis na ang mga baril para makipagsagupa sa NPA. Pero muling nagkasundo at nag-usap noong Abril. Pero muli na namang nagpakita ng katigasan ng ulo ang NPA at nagsasagawa uli ng mga pagsalakay.

Ikalawa ay nang ambusin ang mga miyembro ng Presidential Security Group (PSG) sa Arakan, North Cotabato na ikinamatay ng isa at ikinasugat ng limang iba pa. Halos kasabay nang pag-ambush sa PSG, dalawang Marines naman ang pinatay ng NPA sa Palawan. Sinalakay ng 40 NPA rebels ang police station sa Maasin, Leyte at dinisarmahan ang mga pulis. Kinuha ang walong M-16 rifles at siyam na Glock 9-mm pistols.

Ikatlo ay nang ideklara niya ang martial law sa Mindanao noong Mayo, umapela siya sa NPA na huwag sumalakay sa mga sundalo sapagkat ang mga teroristang Maute ang talagang pakay ng mga ito. Pero hindi nakinig ang mga rebeideng komunista at nagsasagawa pa rin ng pagsalakay sa mga sundalo.

Ilang beses nang sinabi ni Duterte na wala nang pakikipag-usap pero eto na naman at pumapayag na naman siya. Dapat magpakita na may isang salita si Duterte. Hindi na dapat makipag-usap sa mga traidor. Huwag pabagu-bago sa sinasabi.

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personnel but also training as well, and that, in his estimation, for every 10,000 soldiers, the government would need at least P2.5 billion to train and equip them.

Of course, that amount is just a small slice of the budget proposed by the Department of National Defense (DND) for next year recently approved by the Senate Finance Committee, which is at P195.4 billion (about 8 percent higher than the current budget of P181.3 billion). Yet this is not inconsequential. Though the AFP has been using existing funds allotted to deal with the Marawi crisis, it will need to replenish those funds lest it run out of money towards the end of the year, which is a process already underway.

Also, while we are on the narrow subject of defense budgeting post-Marawi, it is important to note that there is a broader context here in terms of negotiations on the national budget more generally, some of which is tied not to what is happening on the ground but other factors from the priorities of the Duterte government to bureaucratic politics around different institutions. For instance, there have been comparisons between the much beefier boost in intelligence funds for the Philippine National Police tasked with carrying out the Duterte administration's drug war relative to the AFP, which was granted only a P220 million increase as opposed to the full P280 million increase it sought.

Finally, the defense dimension is also only part of the broader rehabilitation effort in Marawi. After a recent trip there, Lorenzana said that this effort as a whole could end up being much more than the initial government estimate of around P56 billion, and that lawmakers will need to approve an additional P 10 billion for this year to start that process. Though part of this can be achieved with the help of foreign donors which have already begun pledging some funding, including Australia, the United States, Japan, Thailand, China, and the European Union, there will need to be some funding allocated domestically for this as well (See: "US Terror Aid to Philippines Signals Enduring Defense Ties Under Duterte").

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/09/battle-for-marawi-deepens-philippine-militarys-budget-challenge/>

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