



**TEAM ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)

**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**25 September 2017**

**Monday**

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 25 SEPTEMBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather		PDI p.A16
<b>HEADLINE NEWS</b>			
2-3	Palace open to dialogue with anti-Rody group	Alexis Romero	Phil Star p.1
4-5	Military in final push in Marawi	Genalyn Kabiling	Mla Bulletin p.1
<b>ARMY NEWS</b>			
6	Military, NPA rebels clash in Ilocos Sur; 16 wounded	Freddie G Lazaro	Mla Bulletin p.8
7	AGS bandits continue to hamper completion of infra projects in Basilan	Nonoy Lacson	Mla Bulletin p.8
8	Soldier shoots wife dead, kills self	ED Amoroso	Phil Star p.21
9	Sundalo nag suicide matapos itumba si misis	Jeff Gallos	Remate p.3
10	Buse, Military trucks deployed for today's transport strike	Anjela Lopez de Leon	D Tribune p.B1
11	2 Dead NPA rebels tagged in Militiaman's killing	Julmunir I Jannaral	Mla Times p.A7
12	Soldier donate blood for Marawi casualties	Julmunir I Jannaral	Ma Times p.A7
13	Amnesty for NPA rebels eyed	PNA	Business Mirror p.A3
14	1 Sundalo sugatan sa sagupaan sa NPA	Freddie G Lazaro	Balita p.5
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
15-17	Generals cross Marawi bridges	MPunongBayan	Phil Star p.1
18	Military generals finally cross Marawi bridges in Battle zone	Mario J Mallari	D Tribune p.1
19	Troops retake Marawi bridge, seal terror path	Bill Casas	Mla Standard p.A1
20	Military officers lead symbolic crossing of two Marawi bridges	Rene Acosta	B Mirror p.A3
21	Maute fighters send surrender feelers	Dempsey Reyes	Mla Times p.A1
22	Surrender, release captives, AFP tells Maute anew	Victor Reyes	D Tribune p.B1
23-24	Maute escape route sealed off	Jeoffery Tubeza	PDI p.A12
25	Military: Bomb attacks in Zamboanga foiled	Victor Reyes	D Tribune p.B2
26	Fallen heroes' windows to gain from measure on solo parents	--	PJournal p.4
<b>COMMENTARY/EDITORIAL</b>			
27	Islamic State: Marawi and Beyond	Maritinus Cabugon	MlaTimes p.A6

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

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

28	From Marawi to the rest of Mindanao	Alejandro Del Rosario	Mla Standard p.A5
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
29	Sundalo arestado, binaril-patay ang kasamahan sa kanilang kampo sa Quezon	--	www.bomboradyo.com
30	Pagkakasangkot ni Parojinog sa Marawi siege, malaki ang posibilidad – AFP chief	Analy Soberanoon	www.bomboradyo.com

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

25 September 2017



Page: ALL

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 25 2017 | MONDAY

**SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON AND OF VISAYAS. LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 40 KM NORTH NORTHEAST OF ALABAT, QUEZON (As of 4:00 AM - September 23, 2017)**

**LAOAG CITY** 25 - 33 °C

**TUGUEGARAO CITY** 26 - 34 °C

**BAGUIO CITY** 16 - 25 °C

**SBMA/CLARK** 25 - 32 °C

**METRO MANILA** 25 - 32 °C

**AGAYTAY CITY** 22 - 29 °C

**LEGAZPI CITY** 25 - 32 °C

**ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY** 25 - 31 °C

**TACLOBAN CITY** 24 - 32 °C

**METRO CEBU** 26 - 32 °C

**CAGAYAN DE ORO** 24 - 32 °C

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** 24 - 32 °C

**METRO DAVAO** 25 - 34 °C

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

**SUNRISE** 5:45 AM

**SUNSET** 5:51 PM

**MOONRISE** 8:58 AM

**MOONSET** 3:52 PM

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

**FIRST QUARTER** SEP 23 10:54 AM

**LOW TIDE** 6:41 AM  
0.24 Meter

**HIGH TIDE** 12:32 AM  
1.78 Meter

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

Cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.

5:00 PM		4:00 PM		3:00 PM		2:00 PM		1:00 PM		12:00 PM										
<b>METRO MANILA</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>			<b>22 - 29 °C</b>			<b>22 - 29 °C</b>	<b>TACLOBAN</b>			<b>24 - 31 °C</b>			<b>24 - 32 °C</b>
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>			<b>26 - 35 °C</b>			<b>25 - 34 °C</b>	<b>LEGAZPI</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>			<b>24 - 32 °C</b>			<b>24 - 31 °C</b>
<b>LAOAG</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>
<b>BAGUIO</b>			<b>17 - 26 °C</b>			<b>17 - 25 °C</b>	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>			<b>25 - 30 °C</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>			<b>24 - 32 °C</b>
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>			<b>25 - 33 °C</b>	<b>METRO CEBU</b>			<b>24 - 32 °C</b>			<b>25 - 32 °C</b>							

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

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

**WEEKENDS**  
**6AM**





## Palace From Page 1

administration's war on drugs. They said Filipinos should have learned their lessons and should be protecting freedoms gained after Marcos was ousted.

Marcos' 20-year presidency was abruptly ended by the historic 1986 People Power Revolution, which installed Corazon Aquino, widow of the

late opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. to power.

Last year, Duterte allowed Marcos' remains to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (heroes' cemetery), stirring outrage among martial law victims and human rights groups.

Duterte justified his decision by saying that Marcos de-

served the honor because he was a president, a lawmaker and war veteran.

The Duterte administration is also facing sharp criticisms over its war on illegal drugs, which has left thousands of suspected drug offenders including teenagers dead.

Critics claimed that Duterte's tough talk has created an atmosphere of impunity and has encouraged vigilantism and summary

executions.

The President has denied endorsing extrajudicial killings and abusive practices and has vowed to "slaughter" policemen who commit criminal acts.

He also defended the brutal crackdown on narcotics, saying the drug problem has contaminated four million people, allowed some politicians to stay in power and funded terrorism in Mindanao.

25 September 2017

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

Page: 1

# Military in final push in Marawi

By GENALYN D. KABILING, FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD, and ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**G**overnment troops are making the “final push” against the remaining terrorists in Marawi City after regaining control of another strategic bridge in the battle area, Malacañang said on

Sunday

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Major Generals Rolando Bautista and Danilo Pamonag, Commanders of the Joint Task Force Marawi and of the Joint

▶ 6

4

## Military in final push...

◀1

Special Operations Task Force Trident respectively, crossed for the first time the retaken Bayabao and Masui Bridges at about 10 a.m. on Sunday. They were met on the other end by Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales, commander of Joint Task Force Tiger.

These bridges were recently recovered and controlled by government forces from the Maute terrorist group that laid siege in Marawi City.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the retaking of the Masui Bridge was a significant development in the government's goal of ending the rebellion in Marawi.

"The Masui Bridge is the bridge said to be closest to Lake Lanao and is a possible escape route of the remaining terrorist rebels still holed up in the main battle area," Abella said.

"Government troops are now in the final push and despite the enemy's continued resistance, our recent successes would hopefully lead to the eventual liberation of the entire city and pave the way back to normalcy," he added.

Four months into the fighting in Marawi, the military has reclaimed Masui Bridge previously held by the rebels during operations last Friday. The government earlier took control of Mapandi Bridge and Bayabao Bridge from the terrorists.

President Duterte recently assured that the military was winding up operations in Marawi but ruled out holding a victory celebration. Duterte said he prefers to hold a thanksgiving event, including a mass, for the troops and other people who died in the Maute-led rebellion.

### Release, surrender

Bautista said crossing the two bridges - Bayabao and Masui - is a

significant progress in the effort of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to defeat the terrorists, rescue the remaining hostages, and regain control of the whole city.

The military earlier said that the Maute Group is still holding some 45 to 50 hostages.

"The terrorists are now becoming desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions," Bautista said.

"We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and for them to surrender," he added.

The AFP Western Mindanao Command said that on the 125th day since the siege started on May 23, 2017, a total of 151 soldiers and police and 694 Maute terrorists have died as a result of the heavy fighting.

During his 5th visit to Marawi City last September 21, 2017, President Duterte said that "the end of the combat operation is just around the corner."

The Chief Executive said that once the firefight is over, the daunting task of rehabilitation will proceed full blast.

Fighting between government troops and Islamic State-linked rebels erupted last May 23, forcing thousands of families to flee their homes. The conflict has left more than 800 people dead and Marawi City in ruins.

President Duterte has promised to use a portion of the tax settlement from Mighty Corporation to rebuild Marawi.

### Mosque

Malacañang also clarified that the Masjid Abu Bakr Mosque has not reopened since it is located in the main battle area.

"Government forces have significantly gained grounds by the recovery

and complete control of the areas where the following are located: Grand Mosque, Jamiatul Philippines Al-Islamiya School, Bayabao (Bangolo) and Masui (New) Bridges, Pacasum Square and other prominent Mosques in Brgy. Marinaut," Abella said.

He expressed hope that with the recent developments in Marawi City, including the rescue of Catholic priest Father Teresito "Chito" Soganub, the Marawi crisis is nearing its end.

"These recent successes will hopefully lead to the quick resolution of this conflict, and eventually, the total liberation of Marawi," Abella said.

### Blood donation

Troops from the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) donated blood for the casualties who are fighting at the forefront in Marawi City.

AFP WestMinCom spokesperson Captain Jo-Ann D. Petinglay said WestMinCom personnel participated in the bloodletting activity held at the WestMinCom gymnasium in Camp Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City at around 8 a.m. Saturday.

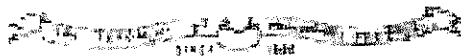
Petinglay said the bloodletting was organized by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Unified Command Staff for Civil-Military Operations, OU7, to benefit the wounded soldiers and to commemorate the 11th founding anniversary of the WestMinCom.

Among those who donated were soldiers of the Task Force Zamboanga, 54th ECBde, 3TOC, and Naval Forces Western Mindanao.

"This good deed bridges the lives of our wounded comrades who braved the battleground. Our gratitude goes to those who have donated blood for the sake of our battle casualties," said Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.



28 September 2017

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

Page: 8

# Military, NPA rebels clash in Ilocos Sur; 16 wounded

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

**S**ANTA CRUZ, Ilocos Sur – A soldier and an undetermined number of suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were wounded in an encounter in the outskirts of Barangay Madarang in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur Saturday afternoon.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio C. Osias, commander of the Philippine Army's 81st Infantry Battalion, confirmed the encounter which happened at about 1:30 p.m.

"Exhausted from the repeated extortions conducted by NPA rebels

in the remote area of Ilocos Sur, the people in the community provided vital information to our troopers regarding the location and whereabouts of said rebels; and in response, our troops conducted intensive military operations, he said.

"When our troops reached the vicinity of Barangay Madarang, they encountered more or less 15 fully-armed rebels which resulted to a 30-minute gunfight," he added.

It was also reported that the NPA rebels were forced to retreat from the encounter while with their injured comrades.

During the clearing operation, Osias said government forces recovered one M653 Rifle, two rifle grenades, three improvised explosive devices, one ICOM radio with two chargers, documents, personal belongings, and medical items.

"We are appealing to all sectors of the society, especially to our local elected officials, to cooperate with their government security forces. It is not just us, the Army, that will solve this insurgency, but all of us. What we are doing is not for ourselves but for the people of Ilocos Sur, and the Filipino people, as a whole," Osias said.

28 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8

# ASG bandits continue to hamper completion of infra projects in Basilan

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

LAMITAN CITY, Basilan - The volatile peace and order condition in the entire Basilan province has continued to hamper the completion of government infrastructure projects being implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DPWH-ARMM).

This was disclosed by DPWH-ARMM District Engineer Soler Undug, who said members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) continue to extort money from contractors implementing projects like the construction of more barangay roads, deep-well water systems, and finger wharves.

"Some ASGs are trying to extort from our contractors, asking for protection money. But with the

immediate help of the police and military in the area of the project, they could not force the contractors to give them protection money, or harm them should they refuse to pay up," Undug said.

He said there are about 80 on going infrastructure projects in the entire province with this city and Sumisip town having the most number of infrastructure projects scheduled for implementation this year.

According to Undug, some contractors even had to stop operation due to the presence of ASG bandits near the area of their projects.

"There were many instances when the military had to conduct military operations against the ASG in the area, just to drive them out of the vicinity," Undug said.

He said this was one of the reasons why some infrastructure projects in the province have been delayed, while some have yet to even start.

Undug said the Lamitan City government had the most number of infrastructure projects funded by DPWH-ARMM that are being implemented on time.

He said city has been awarded with P600 million worth of infrastructure projects this year, to include the expansion of the wharf, a portion of the trans-central road and other roads, and the construction of deep-well water system in the villages.

7

28 September 2017



Page: 21

# Soldier shoots wife dead, kills self

By **ED AMOROSO**

LAGUNA – An Army soldier reportedly shot his wife dead before killing himself at their home in Barangay Tuntunghin Putho, Los Baños City here on Saturday afternoon.

Relatives found the bodies of Sgt. Pedro Talandron and his wife Rowena at around 2:30 p.m., according to Senior Superintendent Cecilio Ison, Laguna police director.

Investigators recovered two bullet shells for a .45 caliber pistol at the crime scene.

Neighbors told police they heard the couple quarrelling before the gunshots rang out.

Probers are eyeing jealousy as the motive for the killing.

## Ex-soldier shot dead

Meanwhile, in Cagayan,

a retired Army soldier was reportedly shot dead by his drinking buddy during a birthday party in Lal-lo town on Saturday.

Dalmacio Asuncion, 55, of Barangay Dugo, Camalanigan town, was declared dead on arrival at the Matilde

Olivas District Hospital due to a gunshot to the head.

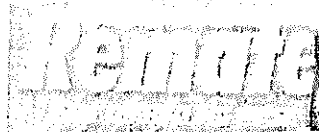
Asuncion and another guest, identified as James Dorado, 44, were having a drinking session at the birthday party of Rommel Batacan in Barangay Bagumbayan.

A quarrel broke out between Asuncion and Dorado, prompting the latter to reportedly pull out a gun and shoot the victim.

Police have launched a manhunt for Dorado, who fled after the shooting.

– With Raymund Catindig

25 September 2017



Pahina. 3

## Sundalo nag-suicide matapos itumba si misis

**PATULOY** na sinisiyasat ng mga otoridad ang pagkamatay ng isang miyembro ng Philippine Army at ng misis nito sa loob ng kaniyang bahay sa Los Baños, Laguna kamakalawa.

Ayon kay Los Baños police chief Supt. Arvin Avelino, natagpuan na walang buhay sina Technical Sergeant Pedro Telandron, nakatalaga sa Army 564th Engineering Construction Battalion at kanyang misis na si Rowena matapos makarinig ng ilang putok ng

baril dakong alas-kuwatro ng hapon.

Nangyan ang insidente sa tahanan ng mag-asawa sa Gawad Kalinga housing site sa nasabing bayan. Ang kapatid na babae ni Rowena ang nakadiskubre sa mga naturang bangkay.

Batay sa paunang imbestigasyon, narinig na nag-uusap ang dalawa subalit hindi tiyak

ng mga kapitbahay nito kung nag-aaway ang mga ito.

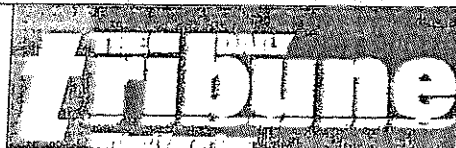
Nadiskubre ng mga otoridad na may tama ng bala ng baril sa leeg ang ginang habang may sugat sa ulo ang sundalo. May natagpuan ding baril

sa lugar.

Ayaw munang magbigay ng espekulasyon ang pulisya pero sa Inisyal na pagsisiyasat posibleng binanti muna ng sundalo ang asawa saka isinunod ang sarili. **JEFF GALLOS**



25 September 2017



Page: 01

## Buses, military trucks deployed for today's transport strike

BY EVAN ORIAS

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday urged commuters to take alternative modes of transport like the Pasig River Ferry System or the agency's vehicles as a transport group holds a strike today.

The MMDA said it would provide stranded commuters with buses and military trucks at seven areas -- Monumento (in front of the Manila Central University), SM Marikina,

Luneta Parade Ground, HK Town Plaza in Pasay City, UP Technohub in Quezon City, MMDA parking lot in Makati City, and Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The MMDA said commuters can take the ferry boats at stations in Metro Manila -- Pinagbuharan station in Pasig; San Joaquin in Mandaluyong; Maybunga, Hulo, Valenzuela, and Guadalupe in Makati; and Lambingan, Sta. Ana,

See BUSES > Page B2

### BUSES

PUP, Lawton, Escolta, and Plaza Mexico in Manila.

The ferries operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays. Fare ranges from P20 to P95.

The Stop and Go Coalition said it is holding a strike in protest of government's plan to phase out decrepit public utility vehicles (PUV).

The group also held transport strikes last July 17 and February 6, and February 27 and inconvenienced passengers.

Stop and Go Coalition leader Jun Magno said the group is also against the proposed cost of e-jeepneys which is P1.6 million per unit. The Department of Transportation wants old jeepneys to be replaced with Euro 4 or electric jeeps to reduce pollution in Metro Manila.

The government plans to scrap public utility vehicles older than 15 years, including those with

low-emission and vehicles with new engines and chassis but do not comply with the environmental standards by 2020.

The DOTr has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Development Bank of the Philippines for the provision of P1.5 billion for the initial implementation of the agency's Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program.

George San Mateo, president of Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsiper at Operator Nationwide (PISTON), said his group will not participate in the strike because it was not included in the planning of the transport strike today.

San Mateo was charged last Friday by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for violating the public service law.

The complaint stemmed from the transport strike against the modernization program held on

last February 27, of which San Mateo was one of the leaders.

The complaint-affidavit filed before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office said San Mateo violated the Public Service Act when he pushed through with the strike despite a prohibition stated in an LTFRB memorandum circular saying conducting a strike as a means of protest against a government action is prohibited.

The LTFRB said San Mateo and his group, by holding the transport strike, "capitalized on the public necessity, which they were supposed to serve."

Reacting to the complaint, San Mateo yesterday accused the LTFRB of harassment, saying the complaint is intended to sow fear among jeepney drivers and operators.

He said President Duterte had given them the go-signal to stage a strike during a dialogue in Malacañang last July 18. - *With Angela Lopez de Leon*

25 September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

## 2 DEAD NPA REBELS TAGGED IN MILITIAMAN'S KILLING

**SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao:** Army troops on Saturday found the bodies of two communist rebels from a group that killed a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in Arakan town, North Cotabato.

Captain Silver Belvis, spokesman for the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, said the cadavers of the two New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas are now in a funeral parlor ready for release to claimants or next of kin.

Belvis added that the slain NPA rebels, whose bags contained ammunition and subversive documents, belonged to the group that killed off-duty Cafgu member Joel Batawan in an ambush last September 21 in Barangay Santo Niño, Arakan.

Local police investigators said the NPA guerrillas were killed in an encounter late Thursday with pursuing soldiers and local militiamen.

Probers said they were certain that the two NPA guerrillas were wounded in the gunfight with soldiers and Cafgu members and were left by their companions when they sustained fatal bullet wounds while being carried away from Barangay Santo Niño.

Belvis said the attack left Batawan's companion and Cafgu member Jonathan Lasoy wounded.

They were riding a motorcycle en route to Arakan town proper when the NPA rebels attacked them.

On Tuesday, another group of guerrillas ambushed Cafgu member Jeffrey Bitonio in Barangay Anapolon, also in Arakan.

Bitonio was riding his motorcycle on his way home from his detachment when the rebels blocked his path and shot him dead with assault rifles.

**JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**

11

25 September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

## Soldiers donate blood for Marawi casualties

**COTABATO CITY:** Soldiers of Task Force Zamboanga, 54th ECBde, 3TOC and Naval Forces Western Mindanao under the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) donated blood for casualties of the war in Marawi City.

Medical personnel of the Zamboanga City Medical Center facilitated the bloodletting held at the WestMinCom gymnasium in Camp Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City, on Saturday morning.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, WestMinCom spokesman, said the Office of the Assistant Chief of Unified Command Staff for Civil-Military Operations (OU17) or-

ganized the bloodletting for the wounded soldiers and to commemorate the 11th founding anniversary of WestMinCom.

Petinglay added that it was also held in connection with the National Peace Consciousness Month observed every September under Proclamation 675.

"This good deed bridges the lives of our wounded comrades who braved the battleground. Our gratitude goes to those who have donated blood for the sake of our battle casualties," Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., commander of WestMinCom, said.

**JULMUNIRI I. JANNARAL**

25 September 2017

# BusinessMirror

Page. A3

## Amnesty for NPA rebels eyed

**D**AVAO CITY—President Duterte said he will ask Congress to pass a general amnesty for the New People's Army (NPA) rebels who will surrender to the government.

"If Congress will agree with me, I might just declare for general amnesty," Duterte told the media in Davao City last Friday night.

He said rebels, who will surrender, will not be held accountable even if they killed many soldiers.

However, the President added he will not accept NPA rebels who have criminal cases because these people must face the charges.

"Those rebels who only want to topple the government, just surrender so that there will be no more conflict. Anyway, you have been there for 50 years," he said.

Duterte added that, if the rebels will still insist to fight the government for more years, they will get nothing since the people do not want communism in this country.

"You cannot get what National Democratic Front (NDF) founder Jose Maria Sison wants. If you fight for 50 years or 100 years, you have nothing to get from the government," he said.

The president added if the NDF will say they will follow a democratic way of resolving the peace problem in the country, the people will not believe it because of the brutal killings of soldiers and police perpetrated by the rebels.

"You killed soldiers who just went home visiting the wake of their comrade. The police officers who have families, all for nothing," the president said.

Duterte added that if the rebels will refuse to give up the armed struggle, the military will always be there ready to fight and defend the country. *PNA*



25 September 2017



Page. 5

## 1 sundalo sugatan sa sagupaan sa NPA

**SANTA CRUZ, Ilocos Sur --** Sugatan ang isang sundalo matapos makipagsagupaan sa mga gerilya ng New People's Army (NPA) malapit sa Barangay Madarang, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, nitong Sabado.

Sinabi ni Lt. Colonel Eugenio Julio C. Osias, commander of Army 81st Infantry Battalion, na nagtungo ang mga sundalo sa Madarang upang beripikahin ang report na kinikikilan ng mga rebelde ang mga taga nayon.

"When our troops reached the vicinity of Barangay Madarang, they encountered more or less 15 NPA fully armed rebels which resulted in a 30-minute gunfight," sabi ni Osias.

Umatras ang mga rebelde daladala ang kanilang mga kasamang nasugatan.

Kabilang sa mga narekober ng mga sundalo ang isang M653 rifle, dalawang rifle grenades, tatlong Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), at isang ICOM radio.

Hindi pinangalanan ni Osias ang nasugatang sundalo hanggat hindi nasasabihan ang kanyang mga kaanak.

Patuloy ang pagtugis sa mga rebelde, aniya.

"We are appealing to all sectors of the society, especially to our local elected officials, to cooperate with their government security forces. It is not just us, the Army, that will solve this insurgency, but all of us. What we are doing is not for ourselves but for the

people of Ilocos Sur, and the Filipino people, as a whole," sabi ni Osias.

Pinuri ng Major General Angelito De Leon, commander ng Army 7th Infantry Division, ang mga sundalo ng 81st IB sa patuloy nilang pakikipagtunggali sa mga NPA. Pinasalamatán din ni de Leon ang mga residente ng Salcedo sa tulong nila sa Army.

Ayon kay Colonel Henry A.

Robinson Jr., commander ng Army 702nd Brigade: "For almost six months now, we have been tracking them down, monitoring their movements and made coordination with the local residents that they have disturbed. This is the third encounter since July, and this is a clear manifestation that the community is with us in ending the problem of insurgency in Ilocos Sur."

**Freddie G. Lazaro**

28 September 2017



Page: 1



Major Generals Rolando Bautista and Danilo Pamonag lead soldiers across the Masiu Bridge in Marawi City yesterday morning in an image taken from government-run television station PTV 4's Facebook post.

## Generals cross Marawi bridges

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

For the first time since the conflict started four months ago, ranking officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines crossed two bridges in Marawi City's main battle area yesterday as troops moved closer to ending the fight with the Maute terrorist group.

Major Generals Rolando Bautista and Danilo Pamonag, commanders of the Joint Task Force Marawi and Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident, respectively, passed through the Bayabao and Masiu bridges.

The AFP said the bridges were recently recovered and controlled by government forces from the Maute group that placed the Islamic city under siege.

Both commanders were met by Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales, commander of the Joint Task Group Tiger.

Turn to Page 6

15

## Generals From Page 1

Bautista said the act of crossing the bridges showed the significant progress in the effort of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to defeat the enemy, rescue the hostages and regain control of the city.

"The terrorists are now becoming desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions. We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and... surrender," he said.

During his fifth visit to Marawi City last Sept. 21, President Duterte said "the end of the combat operation is just around

the corner."

The commander-in-chief and the AFP gave assurance that once the firefight is over, the daunting task of rehabilitation will proceed in full blast.

Malacañang hailed the government troops' reclaiming of Masiu Bridge, calling it a "significant development" in the fight against the Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

Masiu Bridge, said to be the closest to Lake Lanao and a possible escape route of terrorists, was retaken by the military Friday noon, a feat that officials said further

shrank the battle area in the strife-torn city. Government forces have been trying to rid Marawi of terrorists since May but the militants' stiff resistance and the presence of captives have prevented them from doing so.

"Government troops are now in the final push and despite the enemy's continued resistance, our recent successes would hopefully lead to the eventual liberation of the entire city and pave the way back to normalcy," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

The Marawi crisis started last May 23

when members of the Maute group, which is said to have ties with the IS, occupied Marawi, torched several buildings and held dozens of civilians hostage.

The siege, which has been tied to politicians with links to illegal drugs, had prodded Duterte to impose martial law in the entire island of Mindanao.

security forces have repeatedly missed self-imposed deadlines for the Marawi operations but have expressed confidence that the battle-ravaged city would be liberated soon.

Last week, Duterte said he would lift martial law in Mindanao once the military and the police declare Mindanao to be safe.

**Turn to Page 16**

## Generals From Page 6

### **HOPE for Marawi**

Inspired by the courage, selfless service and valor of soldiers who are fighting the Maute group, members of the Rotary Club of Makati's JP Rizal chapter have raised funds to produce HOPE shirts for soldiers battling the terrorists in Marawi.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana himself received the initial 1,000 pieces of HOPE shirts with the message, "Kata-pangan mo para sa Bayan, Pag-asa para sa Kapayapaan" from Caroline Siy, president of the Rotary group.

The shirts were given in a simple ceremony held at the DND Social Hall in Camp Aguinaldo last week where Siy, in a speech, thanked the soldiers who are risking life and limb

to neutralize the terrorists in Marawi and at the same time, bringing to safety the civilians who were held hostage for almost four months.

She said they hope to donate more HOPE shirts until all members of the government security forces fighting in Marawi have one.

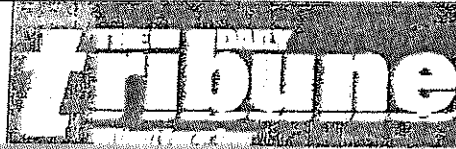
Receiving the shirts on behalf of the soldiers, Lorenzana, who is also the chairperson of Task Force Bangon Marawi, thanked members of the group for their unique way of showing their appreciation and gratitude to the soldiers.

He said he is elated by the thought that soldiers are held in high esteem and are considered as the people's "hope" to attain peace.

– With Alexis Romero



25 September 2017



Page: 1

## Military generals finally cross Marawi bridges in battle zone

By Mario J. Mallari

For the first time after four months of fighting, top military commanders yesterday crossed two strategic bridges recently retaken by government troops in Marawi City as soldiers continued to advance position in the main battle area against still resisting Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists.

Maj. Generals Rolando Bautista and Danilo Pamonag, commanders of the military's Joint Task Force Marawi and

Joint Special Operations Task Force, respectively, crossed Bayabao and Masui bridges in Marawi City around 10 a.m.

The two two-star generals were met at the other side of the bridges by Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales, commander of the Joint Task Group Tiger operating within the main battle area.

The recovery of the two strategic bridges further allowed government troops to advance to the terrorists' position in downtown Marawi City.

Turn to page 2

## Military generals finally cross Marawi bridges in battle zone

From page 1

Bautista urged the terrorists to release the remaining hostages and surrender peacefully.

He said the recovery of the Bayabao and Masui bridges was a significant progress in the effort of the military and police to rescue the hostages and regain control of the entire Islamic city.

"The terrorists are now becoming desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions," he stressed.

"We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and for them to surrender," he added.

Malcañang, for its part, yesterday said the military's taking control of the Masui Bridge is a "significant development" in the government's goal of ending the rebellion in Marawi City.

The Masui Bridge is the bridge said to be closest to Lake Lanao and is a possible escape route of the remaining terrorist rebels still

holed up in the main battle area, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, in a statement, said.

"Government troops are now in the final push and despite the enemy's continued resistance, our recent successes would hopefully lead to the eventual liberation of the entire city and pave the way back to normalcy," he added.

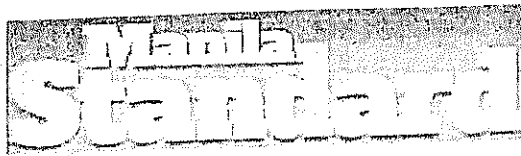
As of yesterday, a total of 151 government troops and 693 terrorists have been killed since the siege erupted last May 23. Forty-seven civilians also perished.

The military said there are about 50 more hostages still being held by the terrorists who are now down to two main groups – one under Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Southeast Asia, and Omar Maute of the Maute-IS group.

There are still about 50 terrorists, including foreign jihadists, putting up resistance against the advancing troops at the main battle area.

18

25 September 2017



Page: A1

## Troops retake Marawi bridge, seal terror path

By Bill Casas

THE Palace on Sunday lauded government troops for retaking the Masiu Bridge, which they said was significant in ending the rebellion in Marawi City.

"Control of the Masiu Bridge is a significant development in our goal of ending the rebellion in Marawi," said Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella in a statement.

Masiu Bridge is closest to Lake Lanao and is a possible escape route of the remaining terrorist rebels still holed up in the main battle area in Marawi City, Abella said.

"Government troops are now in the final push and despite the enemy's continued resistance, our recent suc-

cesses would hopefully lead to the eventual liberation of the entire city and pave the way back to normalcy," Abella said.

Generals leading the fight against local terror groups in Marawi City crossed the remaining critical bridges in the battle area Sunday morning, Sept. 24, to mark a "significant progress" in the battle area.

"At 10 a.m. today, Sept. 24, 2017, Major Generals Rolando Bautista and Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi and commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident, respectively, crossed for the first time since the start of the Marawi siege, the Bayabao Bridge and the Masiu

*Next page*

### Troops...

*From A1*

Bridge," said Task Group Lanao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner.

It was a symbolic march of victory over the hard-fought bridges, strongholds that the Marines were assigned to retake.

The Palace also said the release of the Lanao del Sur drug matrix underscored the ties between illegal drugs and criminal and terrorist activities.

On Friday, President Rodrigo Duterte showed journalists the "Lanao del Sur (LDS) Drug Trade Linked Diagram" with the names of and connections among drug personalities who are allegedly funding the Islamic State (ISIS)-inspired Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

"Local politicians in Mindanao adversely affected by the government's campaign against illegal drugs have financed the Daesh-inspired Maute Group, whose attempt to undermine our sovereignty resulted in the rebellion in Marawi," Abella said in a statement.

Abella said the informa-

tion gave more reason for the government forces to destroy the drug apparatus to protect Filipinos and secure communities.

Duterte has released a "matrix" of drug lords and politicians who allegedly funded the deadly siege in Marawi City, which entered its fourth month on Saturday.

The President said the matrix was a result of intelligence work in the last three months, when government troops were able to gain access to Marawi.

"That's for public consumption already. The details on how they operated the drug campaign in Marawi and the entire of Mindanao... I told them that we should make it public already, it's no use keeping it a secret, for what? We cannot consume it. That would explain really the many killings here," Duterte said.

"There they discovered that the Maute [group] was really preparing for a long haul. Until now, they have never ran out of ordnance, explosives, ammunitions, and all. I really do not know the extent now of the contamination," he added.

25 September 2017

# BusinessMirror

Page. A3

## Military officers lead symbolic crossing of two Marawi bridges

By RENE ACOSTA  
@reneacostaBM

**M**ILITARY officials managed to cross last Sunday two bridges in Marawi City that have been occupied and held by members of the Maute-Islamic State (IS) Group, highlighting the importance of the two bridges in the heart of the city.

Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, and Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident, together crossed the Bayabao Bridge and Masui Bridge for the first time after the two bridges were recaptured from the terrorists.

The symbolic crossing, which underscored the importance of the two bridges, happened at around 10 a.m. last Sunday as the military pushed on with its assault in the hope of completely clearing Marawi City from the terrorists by the end of October.

Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales, commander of the Joint Task Group Tiger, met the two military officials at the end of Masui Bridge.

Both the Bayabao and Masui Bridges have been held by the Maute-IS Group since the Marawi siege on May 23.

Bautista said the recapture of the two bridges were a significant progress in the efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to neutralize the terrorists, rescue the hostages and regain control of the whole city.

"The terrorists are becoming desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions. We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and for them to surrender to the government," Bautista added.

The terrorists, the military said, were still holding around 40 hostages as they fight it out with soldiers within an area of 10 hectares.

Last Sunday, military officials reported that 151 soldiers and policemen have been killed since May, while at least 694 terrorists have also been neutralized.

During his fifth visit to Marawi on Thursday last week, President Duterte declared "the end of the combat operation is just around the corner."

He said that once the firefight is over, the task of rehabilitation will proceed in full blast.

20

25 September 2017

# The Manila Times

Page: A1

## Maute fighters send surrender feelers

MILITARY officials said members of the Maute Group have sent surrender feelers as fighting continues in the war-ravaged city of Marawi where security forces were trying to dislodge heavily-armed militants from their strongholds.

Army Colonel Romeo Brawner Jr. said they expect some of the terrorists to surrender as troops advance in the city's center where most of the Maute men are hiding. He did not say how many intend to surrender.

Col. Edgard Arevalo confirmed that the military had received surrender feelers from members of the Maute Group who only have two options left – surrender or die.

Arevalo, head of the public affairs office of the Armed Forces, refused to disclose how the terrorists made known their desire to yield.

"We are inclined to believe that there are

► **Feelers A2**

### ■ FEELERS FROM A1

## Maute

genuine surrender feelers," Arevalo told *The Manila Times* in a phone interview.

"First of all, we know that the pressure of the intense combat intelligence operations [in Marawi] is mounting and at the same time, [the Maute's] maneuver space is getting smaller every day," he added.

He cited certain gains of the military, including the retaking of some key structures in the main battle area such as the Grand Mosque, the Bato Ali Mosque and three bridges previously controlled by the Maute.

"Everyday, their number of casualties have been increasing. All possible exits are being guarded," Arevalo said.

"They only have two options: either they surrender or they die," he added.

While fighting rages on in Marawi, military propagandists, armed with loud speakers, continue their "psychological operation" aimed at convincing militants to abandon their struggle and surrender peacefully.

It was not immediately known whether those who wanted to yield were hard core members or civilians forced to fight.

The Islamic State-linked Maute Group occupied Marawi in May in a failed bid to make the city a province of the Islamic State.

### Bridges

Government troopers crossed two bridges – Bayabao (Banggolo) and Masui (Raya Madaya) – in Marawi City earlier controlled by the Maute Group.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, Joint Task Force Marawi commander Rolando Bautista and Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident commander Danilo Pamonag crossed the bridges.

Another bridge, the Baloi (Mampandi) bridge, was retaken by military troops on July 29.

"These bridges were recently recovered and controlled by government forces from the Maute Terrorist Group that lay siege over this Islamic City," Bautista said in a statement.

Arevalo said the retaking of these

bridges is a major victory.

"It allows us access from the outside of Marawi City to the main battle area specifically inside [Marawi]. We consider this as a victory for the military since these [bridges] were previously held by terrorists as their strategic areas," Arevalo told *The Manila Times* in a phone interview.

The Bayabao bridge in Barangay Banggolo, Marawi City was retaken by state forces on September 1. The bridge is one of three bridges that lead to the center of Marawi City.

However, while retaking the bridge, three soldiers were killed while 52 others were wounded.

According to Bautista, the crossing of Bayabao bridge signifies the progress made by state troopers.

"The terrorists are now becoming

desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions," he said.

"We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and for them to surrender," he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte, during his fifth visit in the war-zone last Thursday, told military commanders and troopers that "the end of the combat operation is just around the corner."

"Once the firefight is over, the daunting task of rehabilitation will proceed full blast," Bautista said.

As of the latest military count, at least 694 Maute members and 151 government troopers have been killed in the four-month old siege.

**DEMPSEY REYES  
AND AL JACINTO**



25 September 2017



Page: B1

## Surrender, release captives, AFP tells Maute anew

BY VICTOR REYES

AN Army general leading the campaign to rid Marawi City of the Maute Group yesterday told the remnants of the terrorist group to release their hostages and surrender.

Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Marawi, reiterated the military's appeal as government forces continue to regain ground from the Maute which attacked the city on May 23.

"The terrorists are now becoming desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions," said Bautista.

The military has said 40 to 60 Maute men in the city, holding around 45 to 50 hostages.

"We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and for them to surrender," Bautista said.

Bautista made the call after he and Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, head of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident, crossed two bridges that troops have re-captured from the Maute.

Masui Bridge which was retaken after skirmishes last Friday while Bayabao Bridge was recovered earlier this month.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said the Maute members would end up dead if they would not surrender. He said the Maute could forget escaping because "we're guarding the escape route."

The fighting has so far left 694 Maute members dead, and 151 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the Lanao del Sur drug trade matrix made public by President Duterte last Friday showed the ties between illegal drugs and terrorist activities.

"Local politicians in Mindanao adversely affected by the government's campaign against illegal drugs have financed the Daesh-inspired Maute Group, whose attempt to undermine our sovereignty resulted in the rebellion in Marawi. It is therefore imperative that we destroy the drug apparatus not only to protect the Filipino family and the youth of the country but also to secure our communities," he said.

The matrix named some local government officials from the Visayas and Mindanao, as well as their alleged partners in the illegal drugs trade, who supposedly financed the Maute attack on Marawi. Duterte said the matrix is the product of two to three months work of the intelligence community.

The list includes the name Parojinog, supposedly referring to Ozamiz City mayor Reynaldo Paojinog who was killed along with his wife, brother, sister and 11 others in a police raid in Ozamiz on July 30.

Duterte said he was considering giving a copy

See SURRENDER ► Page B2

FROM PAGE B1

## SURRENDER

of his latest drug matrix to priests and bishops who, while frowning on some aspects of the war against drugs, can talk to some alleged drug personalities who are parish members.

Last year, the President also

released a "narco-list" containing the names of hundreds of names of local politicians, judges, and policemen, another list involving the drugs trade at the National Bilibid Prison that identified Sen. Leila de Lima as among those involved in the illegal operations. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*



28 September 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: A12

# Maute escape route sealed off

**Military retakes bridge near Lanao Lake once controlled by IS gunmen**



Clearing operations brought Marines closer to a mosque used by terrorists as a hiding place in Marawi City as other Marines take cover (top photo) in the ruins of a structure where the IS criminals operated before they were bombed. —PHOTOS BY JEOFFREY MAITEM

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS -

com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

MARAWI CITY—Government soldiers on Saturday took control of another bridge, a terrorist position, in their continuing battle to finish off remnants of homegrown Islamic State (IS) affiliates who tried to set up an IS province in this predominantly Muslim city.

Col. Romeo Brawner, Joint Task Group Marawi deputy commander, on Sunday said that top military officials had crossed the Masiu Bridge after it was cleared by members of the Philippine Marines of criminals belonging to two IS affiliates—Maute group and Abu Sayyaf.

"Fighting is still ongoing right now for us to liberate the entire city," Brawner said.

But Malacañang described the taking of the bridge as a major development.

Ernesto Abella, presidential spokesperson, said it meant the last escape route of the terrorists had been sealed off.

Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, Joint Task Force Marawi commander, who crossed the bridge with other military officials, said that retaking Masiu Bridge was a significant phase of the military's progress in retaking the city from the terror groups.

"The terrorists are now becoming desperate as our soldiers and police are closing in on their defensive positions," Bautista said.

"We are continuing our appeal to the terrorists to release their hostages and for them to surrender," he added.

#### Escape route sealed

The Masiu Bridge was believed to lead to Lake Lanao and a possible escape route of remnants of Maute and Abu Sayyaf.

On Sept. 2, government forces took control of Bayabao Bridge in Barangay Banggolo, which became a major battleground between government troops and the terrorists since fighting broke out in May.

In August, soldiers also

gained control of Mapandi Bridge, which leads to Marawi's commercial center.

Brawner said the three bridges could now be used to rapidly transport troops and combat supplies to the war zone.

Since May 23, a total of 151 soldiers and police have been killed in the fighting. The military claimed that 694 terrorists were also killed.

Clashes flared up when soldiers and policemen tried to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the acknowledged head of IS in Mindanao.

The arresting teams, however,

were met by gunfire from the terrorists backed by an undetermined number of foreign fighters.

During his fifth visit to soldiers here, President Duterte said "the end of the combat operation is just around the corner."

#### IS in Lanao del Sur

Brawner said that once the clashes were over, the rehabilitation phase would proceed.

The military also deployed soldiers to the town of Bayanga, Lanao del Sur province, where suspected IS members were seen.

"We are taking it seriously,"

said Brawner of reports that up to 20 men wearing black overalls had tried to attack a military detachment in the town.

In Malacañang, Abella said the military was not on its "final push" to finish off the terrorists.

"Our recent successes would hopefully lead to the eventual liberation of the entire city and pave the way back to normalcy," Abella said.

Mr. Duterte said on Thursday that he would lift martial law in Mindanao after the clearing operations in Marawi.

"The catch word is when it's

safe here in Mindanao," Mr. Duterte said.

The President said the rebuilding of Marawi would "immediately" start once the fighting ends.

"Immediately, when it is safe for people in government to go around unmolested," Mr. Duterte said when asked when rehabilitation efforts would begin.

"I have to clean the place and watch out if there is a spillover or any sympathy group would initiate the trouble again," he added. —JEFFREY

MAITEM AND PHILIP TUBEZA INQ

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

25 September 2017



Page: B2

## Military: Bomb attacks in Zamboanga foiled

THE military yesterday claimed to have foiled a plan of the Abu Sayyaf to stage bombing attacks in Zamboanga City this week, with the arrest of two members of the group last Saturday.

Omar Askali alias Ayub and Mukaram Sapie alias Mukram and Shayif were arrested by the AFP's Task Force Zamboanga and the city police at around 10:30 a.m. along Governor Lim avenue. Recovered from Askali were a hand grenade, a cellular phone and two identification cards.

Follow-up operations resulted in

the arrest of Mukram in Barangay Taluksangay later on Saturday. Seized from Mukram's possession was an improvised bomb and a cal. 45 pistol.

Askali is a "trusted follower" of Abu Sayyaf leader Furuji Indama and is trained in manufacturing improvised explosive devices, said Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the military's Western Mindanao Command.

Petinglay said troops were still searching the area for another improvised bomb because information provided by Askali indicated that Mukram was keeping two bombs. —

*Victor Reyes*

25 September 2017



Page. 4

## Fallen heroes' widows to gain from measure on solo parents

**WIDOWS of soldiers and policemen killed in the bloody Marawi fighting stand to gain from the bill recently filed by Quezon City Rep. Winston 'Winnie' Castelo to push for the further protection and additional benefits of solo parents.**

Solo parents, generally referred to as any individual single handedly raising young children, are covered by the 'Magna Carta of Solo Parents' being proposed by Castelo.

The Magna Carta of Solo Parents or House Bill 6140 aims to strengthen the rights of solo parents and to promote non-discrimination against them.

It further recognizes and addresses the inequalities experienced by solo parents through additional financial benefits and institutional support that would help alleviate the challenges they experience in solely raising their child or children.

Although the bill intends to serve all single parents, Castelo said the measure drew a lot of inspiration from the families affected by the deadly war in Marawi.

"Hundreds of wives lost their husbands in Marawi to fight for our freedom and peace in the country. We can

no longer bring those men back to provide for their families. Their widows are now alone in raising their kids," Castelo said.

"This bill somehow recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by all our fallen heroes and the need to appreciate their heroism by improving the plight of the women they left behind," the lawmaker added.

Castelo said also to gain from his proposal are the victims of deadly road accidents. With such accidents on the rise, the more the Magna Carta of Solo Parents becomes important to motorists, Castelo, chairman of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development said.

The lawmaker recounted the pain and agony expressed by the widow whose husband was pinned to death inside their family car by a wayward mixer truck.

"She was worried that without her husband, life could become difficult for her and their children. With this measure (HB 6140), this single parent can have something to lean on," Castelo said.

Most importantly however, Castelo said the proposed law stresses pro-

tection for solo parents who are subjected to discrimination. He defined discrimination as any distinction, exclusion, or restriction which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by solo parents, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field.

"It includes any act or omission, including by law, policy, administrative measure, or practice, that directly or indirectly excludes or restricts solo parents in the recognition and promotion of their rights and their access to and enjoyment of opportunities, benefits, or privileges," Castelo said.

To be clear, Castelo also defined solo parent as "one who falls under any of the following categories: 1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender. Provided, That the mother keeps and raises the child; 2) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse; 3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained.



# Islamic State: Marawi and beyond

**F**OUR months and P4 billion later and the battle for Marawi City is not yet over. Thousands have fled, and hundreds killed and wounded. As President Rodrigo Duterte said it: "All of us lost in Marawi."

"Every Moro that died, or every soldier that died, breaks our heart. They're all Filipinos," he added.

The war in Marawi is generally a war on fellow Filipinos but several foreigners, especially Indonesians, joined the fighting on the side of the Islamic State.

One of the chief architects of the siege is Malaysian university lecturer Dr. Mahmud Ahmad. He has been responsible for the recruitment of foreigners to join the fighting in Marawi City, and for getting funds from IS Syria and various pro-IS sources. Mahmud, according to Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), channeled tens of thousands of US dollars from Syria to the fighters in Mindanao. Money was sent through Western Union or delivered directly to Mahmud in Mindanao. Malaysian newspaper *The Star* on August 1 reported that Malaysian and Indonesian couriers have traveled to Mindanao since 2014 with money donated by supporters of IS. The money would be dropped at an agreed place and someone trusted by Mahmud would then pick it up.

Dismissed Police Supt. Maria Christina Nobleza received at least P1 million in money transfers from Rahaf Zina, the widow of a top IS Syria official, before both women were arrested in April and March, respectively. Were these remittances intended for the Marawi siege?

The group behind the Marawi siege was able to raise substantial amounts from local recruits. "Tracing the local funds may provide clues to one aspect of the fighting that has been all but ignored by Philippine authorities – the degree of local support beyond traditional clans," according to IPAC in its July report on the Marawi siege.

"Muslim youth in Mindanao were attracted no less than their counterparts elsewhere in the world by the appeal of a state that implements shariah, abolishes borders, destroys nationalism and racism, among others. In other words, while it is convenient to believe that drug lords funded the siege, evidence points to IS supporters here and abroad as a significant funding source. Recruitment of fighters and supporters happened in university campuses and among alumni. These recruits were contributors, not recipients, of funds. Those still holding out in Marawi City obviously are very motivated. It is hard to believe that money is the main motivator in this suicide mission.

On the subject of funds, the P80 million in cash and checks discovered by the Philippine



## RESURGENCE

### MARIT STINUS-CABUGON

Marines in a vault in a house in Marawi City in early June apparently belonged to a moneylender who lent money to local government executives (IPAC, July 2017). There appears to have been no connection to Maute.

Prior to May 23, Mahmud arranged the training of Filipino and Indonesian militants in weapons handling and bomb-making in Basilan. Before he fled Malaysia in 2014, Mahmud was mentoring wannabe terrorists in his native country. One of them, a 21-year old Malaysian, was arrested recently by Malaysian counter-terrorism police together with two other IS supporters. According to *The Star* (September 29, 2017), the three men planned 'lone wolf' attacks on non-Muslims in Malaysia and Southern Thailand.

In two separate operations in August and September, Malaysian police arrested nine Filipinos and six Sabah-based Malaysians of Filipino descent, all suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group. One of them was 25-year-old Hajar Abdul Mubin, or Abu Asrie, who reportedly met with Mahmud and two other Malaysian militants in Basilan before traveling to Ma-

laysia in December 2015. The three Malaysians were wanted by Malaysian authorities and had found a sanctuary with Isnilon Hapilon in Basilan. Malaysian counter-terrorism officials had warned then – in late 2015 – that the three were "planning to form an official faction of [IS] in Southeast Asia by bringing together terror groups in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines" (*Straits Times*, November 15, 2015). It was also in late 2015 that four groups – not including the Maute Group – in Mindanao united under the IS banner with Isnilon Hapilon as their leader.

Why Abu Asrie and the other eight Filipino suspected ASG members arrested in Malaysia were living there, most of them working as security guards in Kuala Lumpur, still has to be established. Were they hiding from Philippine authorities? Were they there as part of Mahmud's grand design for the Islamic State in Southeast Asia? Were they in Kuala Lumpur to carry out terror attacks on the recently concluded SEA Games and Malaysia's National Day parade? Does this reflect a region-wide, coordinated IS-inspired terror threat?

If the Marawi siege has taught us anything, it should be that we should not underestimate the appeal of Islamic State and the capabilities and determination of those who believe in it. We can't afford another Marawi.



25 September 2017

# Mindanao Standard

Page: AS

## From Marawi to the rest of Mindanao



BACK CHANNEL

ALEJANDRO DEL ROSARIO

THE emotional and psychological suffering will leave an indelible mark on the people of Marawi. Restoring this once citadel of co-existence between Muslims and Christians will take years. The rehabilitation of the damaged houses and buildings would need at least P50 billion, according to President Rodrigo Duterte, even as government troops are still doing mopping up operations against remnants of the Maute-ISIS group that laid siege to this once-bustling city of the South.

Comes now the word from Duterte himself that Islamic extremist activity is spilling over to other parts of Mindanao. According to military intelligence

reports furnished the President, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, joined forces with splinter groups from the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. As in the siege of Marawi, these terrorists are backed by the dreaded international extremist ISIS which seeks to establish a caliphate in Asia.

If the unrest in Mindanao spills over to the urban areas in Cebu, Davao and Metro Manila, this could be reason enough for the

President to place the entire country under martial law if the situation is not controlled. Lawlessness and rebellion are two of the elements for the imposition of martial law.

What is the implication of the monitored BIFF, MILF and MNLF activity in South Cotabato and Maguindano? It means that President Duterte did the right thing in declar-

ing martial the martial law in Mindanao which Congress extended up to the end of the year.

The country observed the anniversary of the nearly 20-year imposition of martial law by former President Ferdinand Marcos last week. Former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the architect and implementor of martial law, said the prevailing conditions now are much more challenging than during FM's time. He cited the widespread problem of illegal drugs complicated by the involvement of local officials with crime syndicates. While the Muslim and communist rebellion were a serious threat in the Marcos years, it did not have the ISIS component behind the present Islamic unrest as shown in Marawi.

The vast and encompassing power of Marcos' martial law was not encumbered by any restrictions

although FM made sure its scope was still covered by law. Not so the present martial law which has been emasculated by the late President Cory Aquino who made sure martial law would only prevail for three months unless extended by Congress.

Marcos' imposition of martial law was not an instant decision. The Marcos government calibrated its response to the prevailing political and security condition, proclaiming military rule only as a last recourse when the buildup of forces against the government hit its peak in the late sixties. The communist New People's Army presence in the urban areas, including Metro Manila, emboldened the leftist student activists whose daily demonstrations and protest rallies getting violent. There was an instance the demonstrators were already at the gates of Malacanang

but were driven back by loyal presidential security forces.

The failed landing of weapons from China proved to be the smoking gun Marcos needed to declare martial law. Stormy weather slammed the MV Karagatan causing crates of rifles to spill into the sea at Digoyo Point off the coast of Isabela. The discovery and seizure of the weapons ship from China changed the course of history. If the NPA were able to get hold of high powered AK 47 rifles, they would have been able to do battle with government troops in an urban warfare.

Marcos in effect saved the country from falling into communist hands. Yet the local chroniclers of history only wrote about the alleged abuses during the Marcos years. Fake news existed then before the phrase was coined this year.

28

## ONLINE NEWS

25 SEPTEMBER 2017

<http://www.bomboradyo.com>

# Sundalo arestado, binaril-patay ang kasamahan sa kanilang kampo sa Quezon

Posted By: Bombo Radyo Nagaon | September 24, 2017 | 9:19 AM | No Comments

NAGA CITY – Patay ang isang sundalo matapos barilin ng kapwa niya militar makaraang nagkaroon ng away sa loob ng kanilang kampo sa Catanauan, Quezon.

Sa nakalap na impormasyon ng *Bombo Radyo Naga*, nabatid na nag-iinumano sa loob ng headquarters ng 514th Engineering Combat Battalion sa Barangay 9 ang biktima na si Sergeant Ciemor Dave Daoang, 35-anyos, kasama ang suspek na si Cpl. Arturo Calub, nang magkaroon ang mga ito ng hindi pagkakaintindihan.

Hindi pa mabatid ngayon ng mga pulis kung ano ang posibleng dahilan ng away ng dalawang sundalo na nagresulta sa pamamaril umano ni Calub sa biktima gamit ang kanyang M16 rifle.

Nagtamo ng sugat sa kanyang ulo at sa iba pang bahagi ng katawan ang biktima, na siyang dahilan ng agarang pagkamatay nito.

Kaagad naman na naaresto ang suspek at kasalukuyang nananatili sa himpilan ng Catanauan-Philippine National Police para sa kaukulang disposisyon.

<http://www.bomboradyo.com>

# Pagkakasangkot ni Parojinog sa Marawi siege, malaki ang posibilidad – AFP chief

Posted By: Andy Sebastian on: September 24, 2017 / 13:15 AM No Comments



The chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Eduardo Año visits his troops in the Forward Edge of the Battle Area in Marawi City. (Photo by SNI Donald Viluan PN / PAOAFP)

Kinumpirma ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año na may natanggap silang intelligence report na isa ang napatay na alkalde ng Ozamiz City na si Reynaldo Parojinog

ang nagbigay ng pondo sa Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) Group na kumubkob sa Marawi City.

Sa panayam kay Gen. Año, kaniyang kaniyang sinabi batay sa intel report ay malaki ang posibilidad na tumulong si Parojinog sa pagpopondo sa pagasalakay ng Maute sa Marawi.

Ang mga impormasyon aniya na hawak ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ay confidential document lalo na ang pagkakaugnay ng mga Parojinog sa mga teroristang Maute.

Pahayag ni Año na sangkot din sa illegal drugs ang Maute brothers kung kaya may ugnayan ito sa mga Parojinog.

Ibinunyag din ni chief of staff na isang alkalde sa Maguindanao na ilang buwan nang nagtatago sa batas ang kabilang sa drug matrix na inilabas ng pangulo.

Hindi naman isinasantabi ng militar ang posibilidad na drug money ang kanilang narekober na P79 milyong cash sa isang bahay sa Marawi.

30