

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

27 September 2017

Wednesday

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

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 WEDNESDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 375 KM WEST NORTHWEST OF CORON, PALAWAN (As of 4:00 PM - September 26, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:45 AM	5:49 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:25 AM	11:06 PM
NEW MOON SEP 20 1:30 PM	FIRST QUARTER SEP 28 10:54 AM
LOW TIDE 9:51 AM 0.25 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 1:32 AM 0.97 Meter

Partly cloudy at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	SEP 26	SEP 27	SEP 28	SEP 29	SEP 30	SEP 1
METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	19 - 29 °C	19 - 29 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 24 °C	17 - 25 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C		
TAGAYTAY						
LEGAZPI						
PUERTO PRINCESA						
ILOILO/BACOLOD						
METRO CEBU						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
METRO DAVAO						
ZAMBOANGA						

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS ID

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

27 September 2017



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NORTH KOREA: TRUMP HAS DECLARED WAR

STORY BY REUTERS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The White House has pushed back on North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho's statement to reporters, denouncing as absurd the diplomat's claim of a declaration of war. **A10**

FROM A1

SEOUL/NEW YORK—North Korea has been boosting defenses on its east coast, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said on Tuesday, after Pyongyang said US President Donald Trump had declared war and that it would shoot down US bombers flying near the Korean Peninsula.

Tensions have escalated on the Korean Peninsula since North Korea conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3, but the rhetoric has reached a new level in recent days with leaders on both sides exchanging threats and insults.

Bolstering defenses

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho said Trump's Twitter comments, in which the US leader said Ri and leader Kim Jong-un "won't be around much longer" if they acted on their threats, amounted to a declaration of war and that Pyongyang had the right to take countermeasures.

Yonhap suggested North Ko-

rea was in fact bolstering its defenses by moving aircraft to its east coast and taking other measures after US bombers flew close to the Korean Peninsula on the weekend.

The unverified Yonhap report said the United States appeared to have disclosed the flight route of the bombers intentionally because North Korea seemed to be unaware.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service was unable to confirm the report immediately.

Ri said on Monday that under the UN Charter, North Korea had the right to self-defense and "every right" to take countermeasures, including the right to shoot down US strategic bombers "even when they are not yet inside the airspace border of our country."

'We haven't declared war'

"The whole world should clearly remember it was the US who first declared war on our country," he told reporters in New York, where he had been attending the annual UN General Assembly.

"The question of who won't



Ri Yong-ho - AP



Donald Trump - AP

be around much longer will be answered then," Ri said.

Hours later, the White House pushed back on Ri's claim, saying: "We have not declared war on North Korea."

White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders called Ri's suggestion "absurd."

US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers escorted by fighter jets flew east of North Korea in a

show of force after a heated exchange of rhetoric between Trump and Kim over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea has been working to develop nuclear-tipped missiles capable of hitting the US mainland, which Trump has said he will never allow.

The United States and South Korea are technically still at war

with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended in a truce and not a peace treaty.

The Sept. 3 nuclear test prompted a new round of sanctions on North Korea after the UN Security Council voted unanimously on a resolution condemning the test.

North Korea says it needs its weapons programs to guard against US invasion and regularly threatens to destroy the United States, South Korea and Japan.

The rhetoric, however, has been ratcheted up well beyond normal levels recently, raising fears that a miscalculation by either side could have massive repercussions.

'Mentally deranged dotard'

Trump's threat last week to totally destroy North Korea, a reclusive country of 26 million people, if it threatened the United States or its allies led to an unprecedented direct statement by Kim in which he called Trump a "mentally deranged US dotard" and said he would tame the US threat with fire.

White House National Secu-

rity Adviser H.R. McMaster defended Trump's rhetoric and said on Monday that he agreed that the risk was that Kim might fail to realize the danger he and his country were facing.

But McMaster also acknowledged the risks of escalation with any US military option.

"We don't think there's an easy military solution to this problem," said McMaster, who believed any solution would be an international effort.

"There's not a precision strike that solves the problem. There's not a military blockade that can solve the problem," he added.

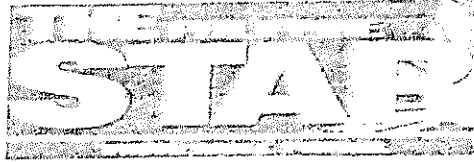
China, North Korea's sole major ally and largest trading partner, has called for calm and dialogue, while world leaders such as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the only solution to the crisis was a political one.

China's Ambassador to the United Nations Liu Jieyi said Beijing wanted the situation "to calm down."

"It's getting too dangerous and it's in nobody's interest," Liu told Reuters in New York.

—REPORTS FROM REUTERS AND AP

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Solano sings, tags 6 brods in hazing

By PAOLO ROMERO

Six members of the Aegis Juris fraternity directly took part in the fatal hazing of University of Santo Tomas (UST) law freshman Horacio "Atio" Castillo III, according to a fraternity member now in police custody as a principal suspect.

John Paul Solano gave the information to members of the Senate committee on public order in a closed-door hearing late Monday.

Police had originally considered Solano a witness in the case until they found inconsistencies in his affidavit, wherein he claimed to have found the 22-year-old Castillo sprawled on a sidewalk in Tondo on Sept. 17.

He had claimed asking the help of a motorist in taking Castillo to the Chinese General Hospital.

The identities of the six, as well as that of the driver of the SUV used to take Castillo to

the hospital, were not revealed as Solano has yet to formally submit his sworn statement to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for inquest.

Solano told members of the Senate panel that six Aegis Juris members were with him in the "fraternity library" near the UST campus when he was administering CPR to the "unconscious" Castillo. Also with them was the driver of a black Fortuner, one of two vehicles they used in taking Castillo to the hospital.

The other vehicle was a red Strada pickup later found registered in the name of the

Turn to Page 9

father of one of the suspects at large, Ralph Trangia

The suspect was supposed to tell all that he knew before the committee in open hearing Monday night but he held back after the Manila Police District (MPD) and Castillo's parents - Horacio Jr. and Carmina - filed separate charges of murder, obstruction of justice and robbery, among others, against him and 18 other individuals

This meant Solano, currently detained at the MPD, was to be immediately subjected to inquest proceedings before the court and therefore would continue to be in detention.

Solano's lawyer, Paterno Esmaquel, a founder of the fraternity, said his client was ready to submit his affidavit with the understanding there would be preliminary investigation first at the DOJ before the prosecution decides whether or not to file charges against him.

Esmaquel told senators that Solano was not arrested but that he voluntarily surrendered to Sen. Panfilo Lacson last Friday, hence he should not be immediately subjected to inquest.

During the hearing, acting chief of the National Prosecution Service Jorge Catalan admitted inquest proceedings were improper.

"He (Solano) mentioned a lot of details. What happened was somehow more enlightening because he told us what happened. There was a tell-all," Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri told reporters

yesterday.

He said his impression of Solano's narrative was that the six fraternity members were "culpable" for Castillo's death.

Solano also disclosed to senators that he has the recording of security cameras in the barangay where he lives to prove that he did not participate in the hazing but was only called Sunday morning to try to save Castillo

After the executive session, Lacson asked Solano whether it would be alright to relay his story to Castillo's parents. Zubiri went to Castillo's wake after midnight yesterday to tell Solano's version.

"It was bittersweet for them (parents). They want to know what happened but at the same time the story was painful," Zubiri said

He said the names disclosed by Solano were given to the police to help in the investigation.

No VIP treatment

The MPD, meanwhile, denied giving special treatment to Solano.

"He is inside his cell. You can check him. He goes through ordinary routine that every detainee has to undergo," MPD spokesman Supt. Erwin Margarejo said in a press briefing.

Solano was alone in his 4x4 cell at the homicide section yesterday.

Solano entertained print media, but avoided television crews, saying he had already told them what he had to say.

He said his friends would come and bring him food but he was not allowed to smoke.

When asked if he knew about reports that he would be released for further investigation, he said his lawyer had not told him about it yet.

Margarejo said they have also heard of reports that Solano could be released but maintained "we haven't received any official paper so it remains to be seen."

MPD director Chief Supt. Napoleon Joel Coronel, however, said he doesn't believe that Solano would be released "because we have filed multiple cases against him."

The MPD has filed murder, perjury, obstruction of justice and robbery against Solano on Monday. Coronel insists they have strong evidence against the suspect.

"We have presented a lot of evidence for the case we filed against Mr. John Paul Solano et al and it is of the appreciation of the court to evaluate the degree of evidence we have presented," he said.

Margarejo said they have two witnesses who can prove that Solano had involvement in the death of Castillo. He said the witnesses were present during the initiation rites.

A ranking official, meanwhile, said that if Solano would be released for further investigation, it should not be until after the burial of Castillo, otherwise "it would lead to public outcry."

Castillo will be buried today at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Gerardo, uncle of Horacio, said his nephew would be buried at his grandfather's mausoleum after a funeral mass in the afternoon at the main church of the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park in

Makati City

Gerardo, meanwhile, took to social media and called for justice for Horacio with hashtag #JusticeForHoracio.

A photo of Castillo's empty classroom seat posted on Facebook by one Sab Amantillo Borrromeo had trended.

Horacio's seat would remain empty for the whole semester "and we'll bring you flowers every day," Borrromeo said.

Borrromeo's post got 7,500 likes, 6,100 sad and 761 heart emoticons. It was shared 3,700 times and drew 133 comments, mainly condolences.

At UST, students and alumni condemned the death of Castillo and called on the university to abolish the Aegis Juris fraternity and fire or expel everyone involved, *philstar.com* said in a report.

"This is clearly a sadistic and perverted sense of brotherhood. Only persons with twisted and sociopathic minds would willingly beat up their brother or any person for that matter to the point of

death," the students and alumni said in a statement.

The group also demanded that the UST comply with police investigations "without reservations" and continue updating the public on the progress of the investigations.

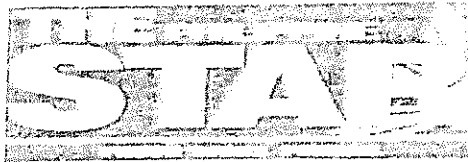
In its statement, the group also assailed UST for being "tight-lipped" on Castillo's death.

"The University of Santo Tomas is still tight-lipped on the matter, consistent with its adherence to a culture of silence whenever major issues arise. We believe that the university's sole statement of condolence and condemnation is mere lip service," the group said, according to the *philstar.com* report.

The students and alumni also urged UST to implement stricter policies on the recruitment of organizations and release the list of members of Aegis Juris and its sister sorority Regina Legis et Juris.

- With Rey Galupo, Ghio Ong

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'NPA's in Batangas may derail talks'

Fighting between government and rebel forces in Batangas could derail efforts to end the decades-long insurgency, according to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who chairs the government peace panel.

Bello said the clash in Batangas on Sunday, wherein more than 500 people near Mt. Banoy evacuated to safer areas to avoid getting caught in the crossfire, "may have some negative repercussion on the peace

talks' resumption."

But he said chances of resuming the peace talks are "better than before."

"Though I have not talked with the President yet, I have heard him over the radio and saw him on TV that he is now open to the formal resumption of peace negotiations, and the NDF also came out with the same statement," Bello said in an interview.

But with the Batangas incident, Bello fears that

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President Duterte would not issue an order to resume the talks with the officers of the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

Malacañang is monitoring developments in Batangas as presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the Armed Forces of the Philippines "is on top of the situation" and would provide information as soon as it is available.

The Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade reported that members of the Air Force's 730th Combat Group and the Batangas Provincial Police public safety company were conducting security operations when they encountered the rebels who tried to set up camp on Mt. Banoy.

Bello noted that The Hague joint declaration clearly states that both parties should provide the talks with an enabling or conducive atmosphere, which may include a declaration of ceasefire.

He maintained that the peace negotiations were just temporarily suspended and not fully terminated, adding that both parties have not issued any official notification of termination of the peace talks even after the 5th round of negotiations was aborted in July.

"Until any of the parties sends a notice of formal termination, the peace negotiation stays alive," Bello said.

Although confident on the resumption of the talks, he could not as yet give a definite date as he stressed that it would be better to wait for Duterte's instructions.

As of yesterday, Senior Supt. Randy Peralta, Batangas police director, placed all police units under heightened alert and ordered them to conduct checkpoint operations on a 24-hour basis to block the exit of about 30 rebels.

"A group of intelligence units are also tasked to monitor and visit hospitals in their area where a number of wounded communist rebels fled after the clash," Peralta told The STAR.

He said the situation in barangays Talumpok Silangan, Talahib Pandayan, Masagitsit and Banalo, as well as other areas near Mt. Banoy, returned to normal. Classes and small business operations were also restored, he added.

In North Cotabato, rebels also posted yesterday on Facebook a "proof of life" video footage of their captive, PO1 Bristol Catalan.

Catalan was seen talking with his family, including his wife, Gigie, who told reporters that she was consoled seeing her husband alive.

The policeman was on a motorcycle en route to Makilala town, his place of assignment, when the NPA rebels from Kidapawan City flagged him down and took him away.

He told his family not to worry and that he is being treated well by his captors.

Local NPA spokesman Rigoberto Sanchez said Catalan, whom he called a "prisoner of war," would be treated humanely while in captivity.

He added that the military's continuing tactical maneuvers against the NPA in North Cotabato and nearby provinces are stifling negotiations for Catalan's release.

The Makilala local government unit is reportedly trying to secure Catalan's release through backchannel initiatives.

- **Mayen Jaymalin, Christina Mendez, Ed Amoroso, John Unson**

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The Manila Times

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BIFF 'bomber' arrested in North Cotabato

BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: A militant Moro commander belonging to the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) allegedly planning to bomb strategic targets in Central Mindanao was arrested in North Cotabato after vigilant residents revealed his hideout.

The suspect, identified as Muslim Ladtugan, alias "Commander Mus," was undergoing interrogation after his arrest on Monday at his hiding place in Barangay Nabalawag, Midsayap town.

A raiding team of the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion (34th IB) and the Philippine National Police recovered from Ladtugan materials for improvised explosive devices, an M14 rifle, an M16 rifle, a rocket-propelled grenade and two caliber .45 pistols.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana of the Army's 6th Civil-Military Operations Battalion said vigilant residents in Midsayap pinpointed to the 34IB troops the exact location of Ladtugan's hideout.

Both police and Army intelligence sources said the hunt for Ladtugan was launched following reports from civilians saying that his group is planning a series of bombings to avenge the deaths of 27 BIFF militants in encounters

with guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Since August 2, the MILF has been fighting a third faction in the BIFF led by bomb-maker Esmael Abdulmalik which uses the flag of the Islamic State as revolutionary banner.

Ladtugan is identified with the group of Abdulmalik, a former right hand man of slain Malaysian terrorist Zulkfli bin Hir, alias Marwan. The MILF's hunt for Abdulmalik and his men is supported by the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Pursuing MILF guerrillas have killed 27 militants in a series of encounters that started on August 2. The MILF has lost more than a dozen members in the ensuing gunfights.

The BIFF is notorious for venting their ire on civilian targets to retaliate for losses in encounters with government forces.

Key members of the municipi-

pal peace and order councils in the towns that saw scenes of bloody fights between Abdulmalik's group and pursuing MILF guerrillas in Maguindanao's second district, said Ladtugan and his men were supposed to set off improvised explosive devices along highways and public places.

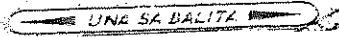
The sources hinted that Ladtugan's objective is to create an impression that their capability to sow terror has not been minimized despite the deaths of 27 of their fellow bandits in the past six weeks.

Besana, spokesman of the Joint Task Force Central that helps local government units prevent the spread of violent religious extremism in central Mindanao, said the Army expressed appreciation to residents who helped in the operation that led to the arrest of Ladtugan.

WITH DEMPSEY REYES

27 September 2017

REFUGEE



Pahina. 5

62 BIFF todas sa opensiba ng militar

Kaugnay ng pinaigting pang opensiba ng militar, umabot na sa 62 kasapi ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang nasawi at siyam pa ang naaresto sa Central Mindanao.

Sa datos ng militar, simula noong Pebrero 20 hanggang Setyembre ay nasa 41 BIFF members na ang napatay habang 21 naman ang sugatan sa joint security operations ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) troops at Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) laban sa paksyon ng BIFF sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Esmael Abdul Malik alyas 'Abu Toraype'.

Ayon kay Maj. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, commander ng Joint Task Force Central Mindanao, ilan sa mga lugar na sinuyod ng operating team ay ang munisipalidad ng Shariff Saydona Mustapha at Datu Salibu.

Sa operasyon ay umaabot na rin sa 28 improvised explosive device (IED) at walong armas ang narerekober ng militar mula nang umusbong ang bakbakan sa Maguindanao.

Sa ngayon, sinabi ni Dela Vega, na ipinakalat na rin nila ang kanilang air assets upang magsagawang aerial strikes partikular sa mga lugar na pinagkukutaan ng kalaban at para na rin magsagawang close air support sa MILF sa barangay Damablac at Talayan Maguinanao. (Betchai Julian)

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Malaya
The Filipino Perspective

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Lumad school being used as NPA propaganda front?

BY RAMIL BAJO

KORONADAL CITY. — The military is asking the Department of Education (DepEd) to determine if a “lumad” or tribal school in South Cotabato is licensed to operate.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, commander of the 27th Infantry Battalion, said the school in Banga town is reportedly being used by the communist New People’s Army (NPA) as its propaganda front.

Leander said dozens of concerned residents have reported that the mentors in that school are teaching students anti-government ideas and propaganda.

He said the students are indigenous people from Banga and the neighboring provinces of Davao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat.

He said Banga is one area where NPA presence has been reported. About two weeks ago, several high-powered explosives owned by the NPA were recovered by the policemen and Army troops in Barangay Lambingi.

“If it has no papers or other necessary

permits, then it should be closed down,” Leander said.

It was learned that military officials in Sultan Kudarat, few months ago, also confirmed the presence of some lumad schools operating in the hinterland parts of Kalamansig and Palembang towns.

Meanwhile in Sultan Kudarat, a bomb-making expert of the NPA and eight others surrendered Sunday to Army troops in Barangay Malegdeg in Senator Ninoy Aquino town.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the 33rd IB based in President Quirino town, said on Sunday afternoon, the NPA’s expert on making improvised bombs and eight others have surrendered to the

Cabunoc said the nine were led by a “Ka Buloy,” of the NPA Guerilla Front 73 and the only expert in making improvised bombs in their front.

“They turned over powerful explosives, firearms and subversive documents,” Cabunoc said.

Cabunoc said the explosives they surrendered could “blow up” an Army armored carrier tank.

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Malaya
The Nation's Forum

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House of ex-mayor linked to drug trafficking raided

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces raided a supposed armory of former Mayor Montasir Sabal of Talitay town in Maguindanao, who is being linked to illegal drug trafficking.

Sabal eluded troops from the Joint Task Force Central that raided the house in Barangay Montay in Datu Piang town, also in Maguindanao, at around 11:30 a.m. Monday.

The raid yielded a home-made Barret rifle, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, and a homemade tripod for a caliber 30 machinegun, said Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the military's Western Mindanao Command.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commander of the Joint Task Force Central and 6th Infantry Division, said the operation was conducted based on information that firearms and ammunition were submerged in water near the armory.

Sabal was ordered dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman last month for alleged mis-declaration of properties in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth for 2011, 2013 and 2014.

"He was also allegedly involved in large-scale drug trafficking and possession of unlicensed firearms. Sabal remains to be at large after eluding the arresting team," Petinglay said.

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IS bombing plot stopped

Army says terror attacks targeted North Cotabato churches, markets, transport terminals

COTABATO CITY—The Army here on Monday said it had prevented the execution of a terror plot to conduct bombings targeting heavily populated areas in North Cotabato with the arrest of a student of the late Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, and the recovery of bomb-making materials and high-powered firearms in his hideout.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, head of the 6th Infantry Division Civil-Military Operations Battalion, said the arrest of Muslimin Ladtugan, a bomb expert belonging to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), prevented what military officials said was a string of bombings meant to divert military focus away from continuing operations against Islamic State (IS) followers in Marawi City and Maguindanao province.

No resistance

Acting on intelligence reports, elements of the 34th Infantry Battalion, backed by the local police, raided the hideout of Ladtugan in the village of Nabalawag, Midsayap town in North Cotabato on Monday morning.

Besana said the raiding team found materials for im-



Members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters who had sworn allegiance to Islamic State (IS) are shown in their camp in Maguindanao as their former colleagues in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (top photo) conduct an anti-IS patrol in the town of Datu Salibo. —JEFFREY MAITEM AND AFP

proved explosive devices, an M-14 rifle, an M-16 rifle, a grenade launcher and two .45 caliber pistols from Ladtugan, who did not resist arrest.

Besana said Ladtugan had plotted to set off bombs in populated areas like terminals, markets and places of worship

in North Cotabato to ease Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) offensives against BIFF in the town of Datu Salibo, Maguindanao province.

BIFF was composed of former MILF guerrillas who had already sworn allegiance to IS.

Besana said Ladtugan was among the students of Marwan, who was killed in a police operation in the town of Mamasapano, Maguindanao, in 2015, on bomb-making.

At least 44 elite policemen were also killed in the operation to get Marwan which led

to charges being filed against former President Benigno Aquino III and his former police chief, Alan Purisima.

The military is also investigating a previously unheard of group that warned of attacks against both the government and IS in Marawi City.

Legitimacy questioned

Col Romeo Brawner, Joint Task Group Ranao deputy commander, said the military was still checking the links of the group calling itself Maranao Victims Movement (MVM).

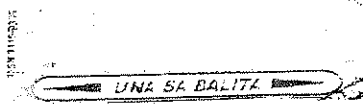
“We are checking if the group is legitimate,” said Brawner. But a certain Abu Ayla Mawaraw, who claimed to be the group’s spokesperson, said MVM already has more than 1,000 followers ready to strike if their demands were not met—an immediate end to fighting in Marawi and the return of residents.

“It could just be part of propaganda,” said Brawner, adding that moneyed Marawi families involved in drugs could be behind the new group.

MVM claimed credit for a 14-minute video that spread in social media showing men brandishing high-powered firearms. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ AND

JEOFFREY MAITEM INQ

27 September 2017



Pahina. 5

Hapilon, Maute nasa 'main battle area' pa

Kumpiyansa ang militar na hindi na makatatakas ang mga lider ng teroristang Maute group na naiipit pa ngayon sa pakikipagbakbakan sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Joint Task Group Ranao Deputy Commander Romeo Brawner, mahihirapan nang makatakas pa ang mga lider ng Maute dahil kontrolado na ng militar ang lahat ng access sa main battle area dahil sa pagkakabawi ng mga tulay ng Bayabao at Masiu kamakailan.

Sinabi ni Brawner na nasa loob pa rin ng 'main battle area' ang mga pinuno ng Maute na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute at bantay sarado na ng militar ang lugar.

Sa ngayon ay nasa 40

Maute fighters ang natitira sa war zone habang mahigit 50 pa ang bihag ng teroristang grupo.

"Pakonti na nang pakonti ang puwersa ng Maute kaya humihina na ang kanilang puwersa," pahayag ni Brawner.

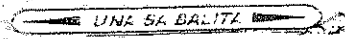
Samantala, sinabi ni Brawner na sumanib na ang ilan sa mga bihag sa natitirang Maute group para lumaban na rin sa mga sundalo na tumutugis sa kanila sa main battle area sa Marawi City.

Sinasabing ginamit din ng mga terorista ang mga bihag bilang 'decoy', kung saan pinapasuot sila ng Maute-ISIS attire upang ilihis ang atensyon ng government forces na patuloy ang pagpasok sa hideout ng mga kalaban.

(Betchai Julian)

27 September 2017

UNSA SA BALITA



Pahina. 5

80 sundalo sasabak vs Maute

Karagdagang elite forces ng Philippine Army ang nakatakdang dumating sa Marawi City na tutulong sa pagsugpo sa mga natitirang miyembro ng Maute terror group.

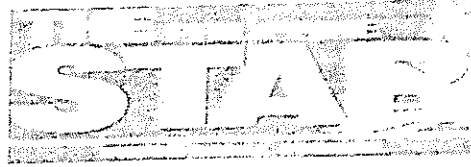
Ayon kay Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, pinuno ng Western Mindanao Command ng AFP, umaabot sa 60-80 sundalong bihasa sa giyera ang darating at handang sumabak sa main battle area para tuluyan nang masugpo ang mga terorista.

Kumpiyansa si Galvez

na malapit nang matapos ang gulo sa Marawi at posibleng tatlong linggo na lamang ay masusugpo na nila ang mga terorista dahil unti-unti na nilang nababawi ang mga pangunahing istraktura o mga gusaling pinagkukutaan ng mga terorista.

Gayunman, sa kabila nito ay hindi pa rin naman sila nagpapakampante dahil tiyak na may mga ginagamit pa ring mga taktika at estilo ang mga terorista laban sa mga sundalo. (Betchai Julian)

29 September 2017



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PSG man found dead in Malacañang

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and REY GALUPO

A member of the Presidential Security Group was found dead in the PSG barracks at Malacañang yesterday morning.

Maj. Harim Gonzaga, 37, PSG chief operation officer, was found with a gunshot wound in the chest by his wife, Sheila, who is also with the PSG, at around 8:50 a.m., said Senior Police Officer 3 Jonathan Bautista, homicide investigator...

The couple's children were in school when Sheila found her husband's body.

Only one shot was fired from Gonzaga's personal gun, a Norinco .45 caliber pistol found near his body.

"There was no sign of foul play. Based on initial findings, the room was not in disarray and there was tattooing on the victim's chest, which means that the shot was close range," he said.

Some insiders say that with military personnel, shooting oneself in the chest - just like the late general Angelo Reyes - indicates that they sacrificed themselves.

Reyes was being accused of corruption when he shot himself in front of his parents' graves in 2011.

Gonzaga's wife said they had no problems and there was no reason for him to kill himself, according to Bautista.

Bautista said the victim was working on some documents before he was found dead.

PSG commander Brig. Gen. Lope Dagoy said while Gonzaga was not under his direct supervision, the officer was "diligent, conscious of his work."

Gonzaga, who was promoted last Oct. 3, 2016, was involved in the deployment and movement of PSG troops.

"The wife was hysterical when I saw her. I was trying to settle her down," he said. Sheila is part of the presidential escort team, tasked with President Duterte's close-in security.

Sheila said her husband



Gonzaga

complained of his heavy workload as head of the operations unit under the PSG, according to Dagoy.

"But it's just normal for us because you are with the PSG. I don't think it's a reason for him to take his life just because of work. We really do not know," Dagoy said.

He left it up to the police Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) personnel to provide details on the possible cause of death.

"The PSG does not want to speculate on the cause of his death and will wait for the official findings of the SOCO as the

command pays highest respect to the privacy of his immediate family," Dagoy said.

Gonzaga was a member of the Philippine Army's Special Forces prior to his assignment with the PSG. Gonzaga reported directly to Col. Cris Mortela.

Dagoy said even if the incident could be traced to a psychological problem, "I don't think we have to be subjected to psychological tests just to prove that we are able and capable. The soldiers already passed through that process."

The body was brought to Archangel Funeral Homes, which will prepare Gonzaga's remains for the wake.

The President was at his residence at the time of the incident but Dagoy was quick to point out that the "crime scene" was far from the presidential house.

"We really cannot speculate. We cannot say its suicide when we do not have all the data to conclude, it can also be an accident but we leave it up to SOCO," he said, adding that Gonzaga's firearm was turned over to the SOCO.

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PSG: No foul play in major's death at Palace quarters

By Leila B. Salaverria and Matthew Reysio-Cruz
@InqMetro

The Presidential Security Group (PSG) sees no foul play in the death of one of its officers, Maj. Harim Gonzaga, who was found with a gunshot wound on the chest inside his quarters at Malacañang Park on Tuesday.

PSG chief, Brig. Gen. Lope Dagoy, said he would rather not speculate on the cause of Gonzaga's death as it was still under police investigation.

However, Dagoy ruled out foul play. "It's hard to say [if] it's suicide. We do not have all the data to [make a conclusion].

It could also be an accident but we leave it up to [police investigators]," he told reporters.

The body of the 37-year-old Gonzaga, the PSG chief of operations on administrative matters, was discovered by his wife, Maria Sheila, when she came home at 8:50 a.m. after bringing their daughter to school. Maria Sheila is also with the PSG.

The bullet was believed to have come from the victim's personal firearm, a 45-caliber pistol, which was also found inside the couple's quarters.

Maria Sheila recalled that before she left their house at 8:30 a.m. to bring their daughter

to school, her husband asked her if she was coming back.

"Yes, I just have something to do at the office but it won't take long," was her reply, she told case investigator SPO3 Jonathan Bautista of the Manila Police District.

Maria Sheila said she called up her husband 16 minutes later when one of his workmates asked her if he was coming to the office. But he did not respond to her repeated phone calls, prompting her to go home.

When she opened the door to their quarters, she found him lying on his back on their bed with his arms spread.

Bautista said the victim was shot at close range because there was "tattooing, which means the barrel [of the gun] was closer to the skin."

Tattooing refers to a flower-shaped abrasion observed on the skin when it comes into contact with unburned gunpowder.

The police report also said there were no signs of a struggle and all of the victim's possessions were untouched and in order.

According to Maria Sheila, her husband had no problems at work except for "not finishing his work load," Bautista said.

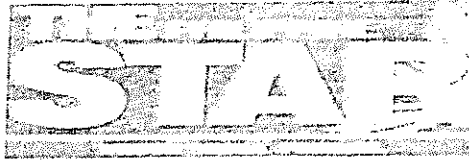
She and her husband had no problems, either, whether personal or financial. He also did not have any enemies, she told the police.

Dagoy said most of Gonzaga's neighbors were at work at the time of the incident. A soldier heard the shot but dismissed it because the quarters were beside a firing range, he added.

Dagoy described Gonzaga as a "diligent" officer, one who was concerned with work. He was last promoted in October.

Gonzaga's body was transferred to a funeral home to undergo postmortem and paraffin examinations. INQ

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PSG removed from gov't intel body

President Duterte has reorganized the National Intelligence Committee (NIC) to promote better coordination among security agencies.

The reorganization was contained in Administrative Order No. 7 issued last Sept. 22.

Duterte included the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Office for Transportation Security in the committee.

The Presidential Security Group is no longer part of the interagency committee.

Under Duterte's order, the

NIC will still be led by the director general of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The committee will be composed of the Department of Foreign Affairs, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration, Bureau of Customs, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, PDEA, PCG and OTS.

"The country's internal and external security situation necessitates greater interagency collaboration in the collection, fusion and production of accurate, relevant,

reliable and timely intelligence for the formulation of national security policies by the President and the National Security Council," the order read.

"There is a need to provide more focused and clearer delineation of tasks among units/agencies involved in the gathering of intelligence on national security issues and concerns," it added.

The NIC was formed through AO No. 68 issued in 2003. It was intended to serve as an advisory body to the director-general of NICA. - Alexis Romero

The road to rehabilitation: Lessons in leadership for Marawi

By: Lt. Gen. Jaime S. de los Santos (Ret) - @inquirerdotnet 05:03 AM September 25, 2017

The rehabilitation and redevelopment of Marawi could well be a flagship project of the government in Mindanao, to establish an environment of enduring peace and security. Along this line, the formulation of a vision/mission statement for the project is of prime importance. The application of some of the principles of war and requisites of leadership can ensure that the vision/mission statement becomes a reality.

As the military-police operations in Marawi start to subside temporarily, the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and development operations will soon commence.

The government has a dismal record in the pursuit of this type of operation. Just take a look at the rehabilitation efforts of Yolanda-affected areas. Sadly tainted with graft, inefficiency, incompetence of government officials, and lack of political will, the victims are still awaiting for the promised programs of rehabilitation and development to bear fruit.

I wish to share some basic concepts that may be considered as the foundation of the rehabilitation efforts in a conflict-affected area, as operationalized by the United Nations, more specifically in East Timor where I had the opportunity to serve as the Force Commander of the 24-nation UN Peacekeeping Force.

Here I have combined some relevant principles of war and leadership essentials.

Principles of war

1. Principle of objective

A defined political end-state is essential and it must be time-phased to be relevant. This may be a little bit difficult to ascertain because the underlying causes of conflict have rarely a clear beginning and decisive resolution. But it is politically desirable to impose a clear-cut end-state. This will establish specific criteria and conditions that will allow the operational process to be regularly monitored and evaluated. Past government rehabilitation projects had vague objectives that were grossly politically tainted. This is one major factor why these ended up in failure.

2. Unity of effort

This principle establishes the need for a coherent approach to a common objective among various military, government and nongovernment agencies and components. Three key actions must be acknowledged as integral to success: coordination, cooperation, and consensus.

There is a tendency for agencies, especially NGOs, to work independently, bypassing coordination with other government agencies and the military. Such practice may create discord, political rivalries that will ultimately affect operational efficiency. Unity of effort is dependent upon coordination and cooperation.

Since various agencies involved in the project come from different professional culture and working practices, clashes in implementation are prone to erupt. A strong spirit of cooperation must be encouraged to minimize friction among different agencies.

Cooperation that is entered into voluntarily has a bigger chance of improving effectiveness in accordance with agreed overall objectives. Unity of effort is an initiative that promotes trust, harmony, and respect.

3. Unity of command

Unity of effort can only be achieved if unity of command is exercised. Placing the program under one single commander with extensive authority is relevant, essential, and necessary for success. It also goes without saying that the commander must assume this as a primary duty and not to be exercised merely on a concurrent capacity.

Hence, a full-time Cabinet official will do no good or any better, as there will be other matters demanding attention aside from the Marawi rehabilitation. Undivided attention and focus is the key, coupled with commitment and passion.

One only needs to recall the Yolanda crisis, the Mamasapano and Zamboanga debacles and why these ended up in failure. There were many actors that dipped their fingers into the pie, so to speak, but withdrew from taking full responsibility when the road became difficult and failure started to creep in.

It is very important to identify and designate a commander with distinctive competence and professionalism, as well as a solid track record in the management of rehabilitation projects, both local and international. From this perspective, a politician should be the last priority.

4. Principle of mass, economy of force, and maneuver

These principles will speed up the accomplishment of the mission. Mass and maneuver refer to the judicious allocation of modest resources that will provide the mobility and accessibility of construction engineering, and other logistic assets necessary for the construction and repair of road networks, water supply, restoration of power, etc. This will avoid unnecessary and excessive cost overruns and delays, thereby achieving economy of force.

5. Principle of security

A high degree of security is a necessity in massive infrastructure and rehabilitation projects, both in terms of protecting the logistics and human resources as well. It is a potent and potential target for rebels and terrorist alike. It goes without saying that the military-police component will always be an indispensable element.

Leadership essentials

1. Respect for cultural background

The understanding of culture is important in leadership because it promotes appreciation of the variations in human behavior. Respect for other people's beliefs and practices mitigates reprisals or misunderstandings, builds coalition, and can gain confidence and support.

Officials that will be involved in the rehabilitation should be well-versed on Muslim culture and history. In addition, the project must radiate a positive outlook from the get-go in order to encourage participation of and enable acceptance from among the displaced and beleaguered residents.

2. Conciliatory over confrontational approach

In an environment where dreams and hopes are shattered even more than lives and properties, utmost understanding is the better option. Dissent, divisiveness, noncooperation among residents and project implementors are prone to happen. A negative mind-set may be altered through consensual approach, and an openness to dialogue and discussion.

3. Organizational harmony

The responsibility of a leader is to establish a climate that promotes teamwork and esprit de corps. Harmony enhances unit and organizational inter-operability. Inter-operability ensures efficient and well-coordinated performance in all facets of the life of the project, be it tactical, engineering or humanitarian.

4. Decisiveness

Weak or tentative decisions breed inefficiency and ineffectiveness resulting in failure. It also diminishes the strategic advantage to perform and achieve since all phases of the project are dependent on time and resources. Decisions made at the right time and at the right place are mandatory.

In this regard, a military commander who has led a career that has been subject to the demands and stresses of combat will have an advantage. It goes without saying that experience and professional standards place a premium on decisiveness.

5. Uncompromising ethical standards

Political will is the major positive factor to achieve desired results, and frustrate the commission of graft and corruption. When huge funds are involved, the project commander must provide the moral dimension to do what is right and proper, no more or no less.

The audit on the project for Yolanda has just been published. It is very discouraging and defies all the basic principles of governance, leadership, financial prudence, and due diligence. The government cannot afford another debacle, the people will not accept any further fiascos.

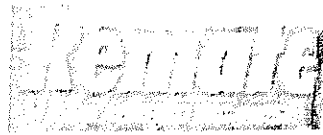
There is much at stake in the rehabilitation of Marawi, for it is not only a test of the collective will and strong leadership, but also a real-time exercise in putting things right, and making change happen.

Putting the right leader is the first step.

Read more: <http://business.inquirer.net/237436/road-rehabilitation-lessons-leadership-marawi#ixzz4tjRoet2C>

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Pahina. 5

EDITORIAL

PATAY NA PSG KALKALIN PARA SA SEGURIDAD NG PANGULO

AKSIDENTE o suicide lamang ba ang dahilan ng kamatayan ni Major Harim Gonzaga, ng Presidential Security Group, o may pumatay sa kanya?

Ito ang mga dapat na alamin ng mga awtoridad, lalo na ang huling punto, ukol kay Gonzaga na natagpuang may tama ng bala sa dibdib.

Sa huling punto, may dalawang punto na dapat isipin: kung personal na dahilan ang pagpatay o kung banta ito sa buhay ng Pangulo ng bansa na si Rodrigo Duterte na nakatira lamang sa Bahay Pangarap na napakalapit sa kwarto ni Gonzaga sa PSG compound.

Alinman dito ang totoo, parehong delikado ang mga ito sa buhay ng Pangulo, lalo na kung isipin na sinadya ang pagpatay.

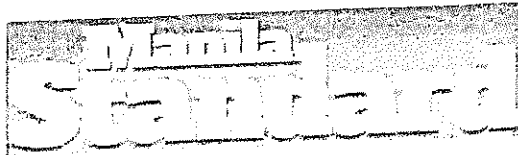
Ang magandang gawin ngayon ng PSG, sakaling ipagpatuloy ng Pangulo ang manirahan sa lugar, ay maghigpit at isailalim lahat ng PSG sa masusing pag-aaral.

Anomang palatandaan sa kaisipan o pagkilos ng PSG na maaaring maging banta sa buhay ng Pangulo ay dapat na aksyunan kaagad.

Dapat na manatili ang kredibilidad ng PSG sa pagbabantay sa buhay ng Pangulo at nagawa na nila ito simula't simula pa hanggang sa kasalukuyan.

Wala pang Pangulo na napapahamak sa kamay mismo ng PSG kahit ano pa ang pinagdaraanang kaguluhan ang bansa na iniuugnay sa mga pagkakamali ng Pangulo.

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Unsung heroes



BACK CHANNEL

ALEJANDRO DEL ROSARIO

THEY are the unsung heroes because it's really their job to defend the country from external and internal forces. Nowhere is this role more evident than in Marawi where our soldiers are still battling the Maute who, strengthened by internal terrorist ISIS, are holding out.

Aside from the military offensive, our fighting men find time to take part in the rescue, relief and evacuation of the Marawi residents displaced by the siege now entering its fourth month. From all indication some of the government troops will remain in Marawi to provide security and make sure terrorists cannot come back to sow death and destruction. The soldiers, we are told, will also assist in the restoration work of the badly damaged city.

I will not mention the

names of the high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who are calling the shots in Marawi. It is the men on the ground who follow orders without question and risk their lives who should be accorded admiration and praise for their courage. These soldiers have families waiting for their safe return. A wife, children and parents praying for their safety. They too deserve our prayers; they suffer in silence and the agony of waiting for word on their husbands, fathers and sons after every military operation.

It's a hazardous profession. But many of our young men choose a military career and go to the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio. Usually from poor families, these men in the prime of their lives opted for a military career because the job market is already full of lawyers, doctors and engineers.

Hence, we have heroes

as exemplified by the 44 members of the PNP Special Action Force who were massacred in Mamasapano by combined forces of the MILF, BIFF and Abu Sayyaf. The SAF team were on a mission to serve an arrest warrant to international terrorist and bomb maker Marwan. They were able to kill Marwan but were waylaid as they withdrew from the operation site.

Compare the hard choice and path taken by these gallant men of the AFP to the senseless need to belong by some of our students in expensive colleges and universities. Unlike the soldiers' esprit d'corps, these students are misguided to think they need to belong to fraternities.

We sympathize with the parents of hazing victims. It's about time hazing is totally outlawed. Colleges and universities bear the responsibility of making sure hazing is not done by fraternities. Expulsion of those found guilty of haz-

ing should be these educational institutions' priority measure.

While most of these horrific hazing is done outside the school premises, college and university officials should still be held accountable for not monitoring student activity. It's not just about raising tuition, really. The well-being of their students should also be of paramount concern.

Why would anyone want to belong to a fraternity group whose leaders enjoy inflicting pain and humiliation to new members? Sado-masochism seems to have found its place in these fraternities. During my time as university student I was asked to join a fraternity. I declined the invitation and was treated like an outcast and some kind of a lone wolf which I was then. I'm sure I'm going to draw flak from the fraternity crowd. But someone has to speak out against the practice of hazing lest we have more

victims like Horacio Castillo III, the UST student who died from serious injuries caused by hazing.

Instead of joining fraternities or sororities, students should join civic groups that help in time of natural disasters like typhoons and earthquakes. Community service is a more worthy cause. I may sound like I'm preaching but I am a parent too and I can empathize with those who lost a child because of senseless initiation rites that can turn violent.

The perpetrators in the Castillo case have fled the country. Because they belong to wealthy and well-off families they were able to buy plane tickets to the US where they think can hide. The parents of Castillo have asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to cancel the fugitives' passports and have them extradited back to the Philippines.

So, was one night of inflicting pain on another person worth it?

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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UNRAVELING

Martial law: Enrile's first-hand account



By **GETSY TIGLAO**

FOR too long there was only one narrative of Marcos' martial law, an account that was propagated by the victors of the 1986 civilian-backed military revolt, otherwise known as EDSA. It is necessary for our national healing and unity to understand everything in all their political complexities instead of just painting them in black and white, or the hackneyed "good versus evil."

First-hand accounts of what really happened during that time are essential in getting a complete picture of this seminal event in our history. Former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, 93 years old, is one of the few remaining key personalities from that era whose insights can help us understand more this chapter in Philippine history.

Enrile gave a speech a few months back in which he explained in great detail why Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law on September 1972 and why it lasted for several years. He outlined the peace and order problems the country faced shortly before Marcos began his second term in 1969.

The primary threat was from the newly organized Communist Party of the Philippines headed by Jose Ma. Sison. Government was also being challenged by the rising student activism during the period, which was aggravated by the anti-US sentiment and the perceived mistreatment of Filipinos in the American bases.

In the streets was virtual anarchy with regular demonstrations by left-wing groups, such as those from Agrifina Circle who stormed Maharlika Hall where Marcos was meeting with his Nacionalista Party. Enrile said the demonstrators were allowed to vent their ire inside Malacañang Palace.

Another controversial incident designed for media exploitation was the killing of ten civilian guards of a US naval radio station on a deserted road between Capas, Tarlac and Camp O'Donnell in Pampanga. The three alleged survivors blamed the military for the massacre, but Enrile's lawyerly instincts kicked in – he said their versions of the events were too similar, including the flaws in their stories.

His doubts were further enhanced when the witnesses arrived on board two private planes at the domestic airport in Pasay City where they were met by former Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. and the media with their television cameras.

"With great fanfare in front of a big crowd at the Hacienda Luisita hangar, Senator Aquino demanded the arrest of Geronimo Foronda – a man alleged to have flagged down the vehicle car-

rying the massacre victims... He also demanded the ouster of all Philippine Constabulary men in the province of Tarlac." Enrile recalled.

Enrile ordered a lie-detector test for the so-called survivors. They turned out to be false witnesses, said Enrile, who called Aquino at the Senate to inform him about the result of the polygraph test. According to Enrile, Aquino "disclaimed knowledge of the falsity of the witnesses. He simply and curtly said, 'Bahala na kayo diyan!'"

On the idea of martial law, Enrile began studying it as early as December 1969, on orders of Marcos, who said he foresaw the escalation of violence and disorder in the country and wanted to know the extent of his power as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces under the 1935 Constitution.

Enrile completed the task after several months. "Only one copy of the research was prepared. I never saw or heard of that copy again thereafter," he said.

Martial law would not be implemented until three years later with the further deterioration of the national security situation and the economic challenges the country faced after a series of strong typhoons.

Violence was widespread and the police could not match the guns of private armies and Communists. The government at that time only had about 60,000 troops and most of them were deployed in Central Luzon to fight the communist rebels.

Enrile also related an incident that happened on January 26, 1970 when Marcos was in Congress to deliver his State of the Nation Address. Militants aligned with the Communists held a big rally in front of Congress in Manila and effectively sealed its entrance.

President Marcos and his wife Imelda, Cabinet officials, Supreme Court justices, and foreign dignitaries were trapped inside the building. When they came out the demonstrators threw stones and exploded Molotov bombs. A cardboard coffin was hurled at Marcos which struck his back as he boarded the presidential car.

After this episode, Enrile said he fully grasped the essence of what Marcos told him, "that violence and disorder would escalate and threaten the country." There were other violent incidents that would follow, most notably the bombing of Plaza Miranda on August 21, 1971, which was blamed on Marcos.

Decades later it will be revealed that it was the Communist Party which planned and executed the bombing in order to provoke Marcos into finally declaring martial law.

The communists had hoped the bombing would lead to further anarchy

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and a "revolutionary flow" that would install them into power, just as other communist groups had done in China, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea. China even gave local communists boatloads of arms but the military foiled their plans in the infamous M/V Karagatan incident.

Would the Philippines had turned

communist if Marcos had not declared martial law? Now that is an intriguing question that still bears asking as the communists are still around, in various permutations, and they are proving to be the bane of the current Duterte administration.

Enrile has defended President Du-

terte's imposition of martial law in Mindanao. To him, this is a neutral concept, a tool of the state that it has every right to use when there is lawless violence or rebellion. Enrile, who withdrew his support from Marcos in 1986, is now proving to be an invaluable resource in understanding martial law.

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ONLINE NEWS

27 SEPTEMBER 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

UNDER INVESTIGATION | PSG grieves death of officer

By Alvir Santiago

PSG PARK, Malacanan, Manila (DWDD) – The Presidential Security Group (PSG) expresses grief and deepest condolences to the family and friends of Major Harim G Gonzaga, 37 years old, married and father of two (2).

According to PSG commander Brig. Gen. Lope Dagoy, Major Gonzaga's lifeless body sustained a single gunshot wound to the chest and was found by his wife Sheila, also a PSG, inside their quarters in Malacanan Park, Manila today, September 26, 2017, at around 8:50 AM.

Gonzaga is head of the PSG operations section.

The PSG does not want to speculate on the cause of his death, whether suicide or accident, and will wait for the official findings of the PNP-Scene of the Crime Operatives (PNP-SOCO), as the command pays highest respect to the privacy of his immediate family. **PSG/MCAG**

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

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Asia Brewery donates energy drinks for soldiers

By [Alvin Santiago](#)

BONIFACIO NAVAL STATION, Taguig City (DWDD) – The Asia Brewery Incorporated donated 967 boxes of cobra cans citrus intended for brave warriors in Marawi City.



The Armed Forces of the Philippines extends its appreciation to Asia Brewery for their support to the Lingap Marawi Project.

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

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

Meanwhile, the Philippine Navy together with Soldiers' Wives And Girlfriends (SWAG) Philippines (SWAG) would like to encourage everyone to support and extend help to the Marawi Crisis victims and AFP/PNP in Marawi City through donations.

For those who want to help or donate, you may contact mobile 09498891809 or email at cmog.pn.pcau@gmail.com for more inquiries. **CMOG-PN/MCAG**

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

www.dwdd.com.ph

INTENSIFIED OPERATIONS | BIFF losses/casualties on the rise

Report by Alvin Santiago

ZAMBOANGA CITY (DWDD) – The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have sustained 62 casualties as military offensives intensified to rid the province of the Daesh-inspired terrorist in Central Mindanao.

According to latest report from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), they have recently apprehended nine (9) terrorist and have recovered eight firearms and 28 Improvised Explosive Devices and components since fighting started last August 2 in Maguindanao.

So far, the BIFF has lost 41 member while 21 were wounded during joint security operations by the AFP and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front against the BIFF faction of Esmael Abdul Malik aka Abu Toraype.

Major General Arnel Delavega, commander of the Joint Task Force Central stated that MILF ground forces, maneuvering on BIFF lairs, were able to purge the terrorists from their areas, particularly in the municipalities of Shariff Saydona Mustapha and Datu Salibo, both in Maguindanao.

The MILF complemented the AFP's ground forces by serving on blocking positions on possible enemy withdrawal routes, while the Army's field artillery and the Air Forces' Air assets pounded the enemy holed up in Barangay Damablac, Talayan, Maguindanao.

Delavega added that government forces are sustaining their security operations on built-up areas, route, particularly in vulnerable areas, in coordination with the PNP, to prevent the enemy from conducting retaliatory attacks or other atrocities.

Recently, soldiers were able to pre-empt BIFF members from transporting a 60mm mortar from Barangay Damablac, Talayan, Maguindanao towards Barangay Nabalawag, Midsayap, North Cotabato.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the AFP Western Mindanao Command (WESTMINCOM), maintained that the threat the government is confronting in Central Mindanao, instigated by the BIFF, is very much related to the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group creating havoc in Marawi City. And resembling the

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

AFP's efforts in containing the threats in the other areas of the Command, the WestMinCom is still very much in control of the situation in Central Mindanao.

By following the principle of 'Economy of Force,' the sustained the operational momentum in Central Mindanao by employing the forces-in-being of the JTF Central with very minimal augmentation of air assets. Very significantly, the strategic alliance by the AFP with the MILF continues to benefit the security campaign as the MILF confront the BIFF fighting side by side with our soldiers. With this, we are able to still focus our forces in Marawi City, while winning over the threat in Central Mindanao and in other parts of our joint area of operations. And we sustain our efforts to address the threat of terrorism in our area, added Galvez.

As of the latest, 20 MILF members were killed and 41 others were wounded since the operations started, while seven soldiers have sustained injuries. **AES/ALS**

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