

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

29 September 2017

Friday

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

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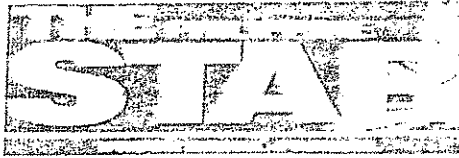
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MONDAY - FRIDAY
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6 AM

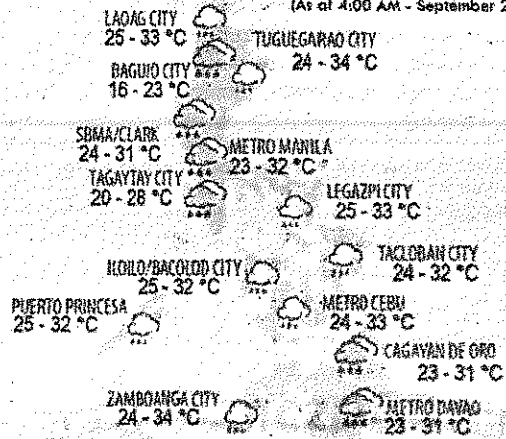
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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:46 AM	5:47 PM	1:49 PM	12:42 AM
LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
10:54 AM SEP 28	2:46 AM OCT 6	12:34 PM 0.21 Meter	3:12 AM 2.95 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 | FRIDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO
(As of 4:00 AM - September 28, 2017)

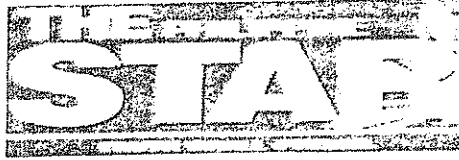


EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 30 SAT	OCT 1 SUN	OCT 2 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 30 SAT	OCT 1 SUN	OCT 2 MON
METRO MANILA	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 34 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 35 °C	HLOILO/BACOLOD	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LAOAG	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	26 °C 34 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 24 °C	17 °C 24 °C	17 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	20 °C 29 °C	21 °C 29 °C	21 °C 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C	22 °C 30 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 34 °C	23 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C

☁️
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thundershowers.

☁️
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thundershowers.

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Rody threatens to probe ombudsman for graft

AMLC denies providing report on Rody bank accounts

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte is turning the tables on the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Chief Executive yesterday announced he is forming a commission that will look into the alleged corrupt activities in the anti-graft agency, which has launched a fact-finding probe into the alleged billions that he and his family own – the subject of earlier exposés by opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

“You’ll be investigated also. One of these days, I am sure you will be pursued because of your partiality. If you don’t start investigating yourself, I will set up a commission to investigate you,” Duterte said.

He hinted that ombudsman prosecutors have received bribes from military, police and local officials in exchange for dismissing graft cases.

Angered by the ombudsman’s probe, Duterte said he is ready to give away the alleged P200 million said to be in his bank accounts, if found true. The President, however,

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involvement in the illegal shipment of drugs because the port of Davao is being used as a transshipment point," Trillanes said.

If the President still insists that the allegations against him are false, Trillanes reiterated his challenge for Duterte to sign a waiver on the secrecy of bank deposits and bare all of his accounts to the public.

"The only way for him to disprove this is to sign a waiver or else he should resign. So sign or resign," Trillanes said.

'Real crook'

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday, Sen. Leila de Lima said AMLC records received by the ombudsman showed that Duterte is the real crook and not her as he had alleged.

De Lima recalled how the President and Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II promised to expose AMLC records of her bank transactions amounting to P10 billion, which they claimed were from the illegal drug trade.

"For almost a year, and despite all the powers wielded by the President of the Republic, Duterte and his secretary of justice are still not able to show a single centavo of AMLC bank transaction records to prove that drug money flowed into my bank accounts. Not even one peso," De Lima said.

With the latest developments, she said Duterte should retract his allegations against her.

Elated

"I challenge him to waive the secrecy of his bank accounts to prove that he has nothing to hide. It was he who has repeatedly declared that he won't tolerate corruption, and that he would resign if there is proof of corruption on his part or on the part of any member



President Duterte talks to persons with disabilities belonging to the Our Lady of Victory Training Center during a dinner he hosted at Malacañang on Wednesday. The President handed out P3.2-million aid to the center.

of his family," Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano said.

Alejano filed the first impeachment complaint against Duterte, which the House of Representatives dismissed in May, insulating the President from any further impeachment process for one year.

The former Marine captain expressed elation over the ombudsman's probe on the complaint of Trillanes, another Magdalo member.

Alejano's impeachment complaint was based largely on Trillanes' revelations about the President's supposed illegally acquired assets.

Alejano said the House wasted its opportunity to give the President a forum to answer the charges against him by precipitately dismissing his complaint.

"Duterte has all along been hiding his wealth and deceiving the people. His lies are now being exposed one by one," he said.

Sara welcomes probe

Presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio yesterday said she welcomes the ombuds-

man's investigation on the President and his family's alleged hidden wealth amounting to billions of pesos.

"I welcome it so that we can finally answer all accusations in the proper venue. Thank you," Duterte-Carpio said in a statement released by the City Information Office.

The President has repeatedly denied having billions in bank deposits.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales has inhibited herself from the probe, as the husband of the mayor, lawyer Manases Carpio, is her nephew.

For his part, presidential legal adviser Salvador Panelo yesterday expressed belief that the ombudsman's probe will be for naught since Duterte has no hidden wealth.

"There is no hidden wealth. There may be hidden poverty," Panelo said.

"The President is already used to persistent tirades of his detractors, most especially Senator Trillanes," Panelo added, stressing that the senator has failed to substantiate his allegation. – With Mary Grace Padin, Marvin Sy, Jess Diaz, Edith Regalado

Rody threatens From Page 1

denied the reports.

Although there is a separation of the three branches of government, Duterte said that as President, he has the power to call for a probe on the ombudsman.

"Who will investigate your shenanigans? What is the remedy of the Filipino (people) if you demand (bribes)? Don't make a fool out of me. Don't force my hand into it," Duterte said in an interview aired over state-run PTV4 last night.

"*Sabihin ang ombudsman walang corruption (You say that there is no corruption in the ombudsman)? Tanungin mo 'yang mga military, Kayong Filipino, tanungin ninyo magkano binayad nila, police and mayors (Ask the military, You Filipinos, ask them, the police and the mayors, how much they paid the ombudsman). Ask governors, they all paid. After paying, their cases will be dismissed,*" Duterte said.

He also took a dig anew at the Liberal Party, although he did not particularly name former president Benigno Aquino III, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, Senators Bam Aquino and Kiko Pangilinan and ex-budget secretary Florencio Abad, who are the prominent LP members.

"Are you beholden to the Liberals?" Duterte asked ombudsman officials.

He wondered why no LP member has been charged with graft over the misuse of the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP), portions of which had been ruled by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

Trillanes yesterday said he

felt vindicated by the findings of the ombudsman that the documents about the alleged undeclared wealth of Duterte that he submitted were about the same as what was submitted to the government's anti-graft and corruption agency by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).

AMLC: No report, amounts misleading

The AMLC, however, denied late yesterday that it has provided the ombudsman with a report, adding that the total amounts mentioned in Trillanes' complaint were "wrong and misleading."

The AMLC said it has not yet evaluated and acted on the request dated August of Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Carandang, which the council received on Sept. 6, to initiate a probe on the alleged Duterte accounts.

"(The AMLC) has neither provided the Office of the Ombudsman with any report as a consequence of any investigation of subject accounts for any purpose," the council declared in a statement.

"We have categorically stated before that the Anti-Money Laundering Council is not the source of the documents and information attached by Senator Antonio F. Trillanes IV in his complaint regarding the alleged bank accounts of President Rodrigo Duterte," the AMLC said.

It added: "Suffice it to state that in the attachment of the complaint, the alleged debits and credits representing outflows and inflows of funds were added together, thus, the resulting total amounts are

wrong and misleading."

Still, with the ombudsman's investigation into the plunder complaint filed by Trillanes against Duterte underway, the senator insisted that he was right all along that the President is "a fraud and a crook."

"This proves (that) not only my allegations about his billion-peso bank accounts are true but also that Duterte has fooled a lot of people into believing that he is not corrupt," Trillanes said.

Trillanes has been on a mission to expose the alleged corrupt activities of Duterte and his family, starting from the campaign period for the May 2016 national elections, when he alleged that hundreds of millions in deposits went into various bank accounts the President had kept over the years when he was still mayor of Davao City.

Trillanes said Duterte has been effective in his propaganda about living simply but now people are starting to see through him.

Over P2 billion in credits and deposits were recorded in various bank accounts allegedly maintained by Duterte either singly or with members of his family, according to the senator.

These, he said, were not campaign funds because the records he received dated to periods as early as 2003.

Part of the complaint filed by Trillanes against Duterte was based on the findings of the Commission on Audit that 11,000 ghost employees were maintained by the city government of Davao when he was still mayor, which allegedly cost the government some P600 million annually.

"Then there is the smuggling, illegal gambling, illegal mining protection racket, his

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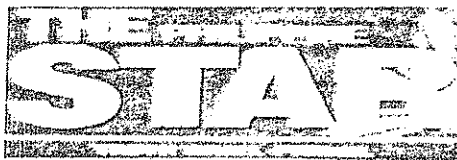
INQUIRY

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Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, head of the Army's First Infantry Division, tries to teach evacuees how to plant vegetables in anticipation of an end to the war that had left most of Marawi City (top photo) in ruins. Bautista oversees a "green community" plan for evacuees. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Abus snatch Jolo councilor

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits seized a municipal councilor in Indanan, Sulu on Wednesday night.

Ezed Soud Tan, councilor of Jolo and nephew of former Sulu vice governor Sakur Tan, was biking along with his friends at the boundary of Barangays Tagbak and Timbangan when he was seized at around 6 p.m., according to Brig. Gen. Cirilito

Sobejana, chief of Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS).

Tan and his companions were headed back to Jolo after making a turn in Maimbung town when he was forcibly taken by at least six men believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf's Ajang-Ajang faction. "The bandits dragged Tan

toward their Tamaraw FX and fled toward the nearby Talipao town," Sobejana said.

He said the military intensified checkpoint operations in the area and launched a search and rescue operation for Tan.

A crisis management team was also organized for the rescue of the victim.

Tan's kidnapping brought the number of Abu Sayyaf hostages to 17, which includes six Vietnamese, five Indonesians, a Dutchman and five Filipinos.

The hostages are believed being kept separately in the jungles of Sulu. – With Jaime Lande. John Unson

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The Manila Times

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Yolanda funds to be used for Marawi rehab

BY DEMPSEY REYES

THE rehabilitation of Marawi City will be partly funded by the money allocated for victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Lorenzana on Thursday said the Budget department allotted Yolanda "savings" for the Islamic city's rehabilitation. He explained that Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno allocated P5 billion of the P7.5 billion fund meant to help victims of typhoon Yolanda, particularly those in Tacloban City.

"They (Department of Budget and Management) got the P5 billion [from the Yolanda funds] and they allocated it for the meantime in Marawi to support the evacuees and the expenses that we are going to incur," the Defense chief said in a

news conference and media seminar on disaster risk reduction and management in Subic, Zambales.

The P5 billion will be used to build temporary shelters for Marawi refugees and fund relief operations among other projects.

Lorenzana said the "real" allocation for the Marawi reconstruction may be released next year.

"What we are doing right now is clearing the debris to provide a clear way for the residents and we will be having an assessment, a post-conflict assessment then we will finish the master plan for

development," he explained.

"Then next year, once the budget is released in the first quarter, then we will start the reconstruction," he added.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director Ricardo Jalad said the budget to be utilized in Marawi will also be sourced from various agencies who got "quick response fund."

Jalad said all departments of the government have quick response funds meant to be used during disasters.

Lorenzana said the budget of the NDRRMC for next year will be increased to P25 billion. Of this, P10 billion will be used for the rehabilitation of Marawi.

Diokno in July announced that his department has set aside P5 billion for Marawi, where soldiers have been battling Maute Group terrorists for four months.

Not murderers

Lorenzana had said that the war in Marawi will be over by the end of September.

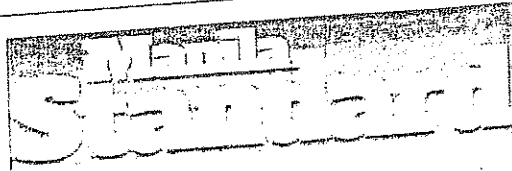
The Defense chief gave assurances that state troops will not kill the terrorists who will surrender.

Rep. Mauyag Papandayan Jr. of Lanao del Sur had said some Maute members are willing to surrender as long as they will not be killed by the military.

"Of course, we will not kill people who are surrendering. Soldiers are not murderers. People who will surrender, we will take them and their fate is up to the courts once we filed appropriate charges against them, but they will not be killed if they surrender," Lorenzana said.

"So I told him (Papandayan), anytime they (Maute) want to surrender, they can go out, they will not be killed," he added.

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Maute men told: Give up, you'll live

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday assured the Maute members planning to surrender that they would not be killed if they did.

"Of course, we will not kill people who are surrendering. Our soldiers are not murderers," Lorenzana told reporters in Subic.

He said Lanao del Sur Rep. Maanyag Papandayan, chairman of the House com-

mittee on Muslim affairs, told him during the Marawi briefing that there were Maute members who wanted to surrender but asked that they not be killed.

"They said they wanted to surrender. I said no problem," Lorenzana said, adding they will receive anybody who wants to surrender and they will let the court decide on their fate.

Next page

"People who surrender, we will take them in. The court will take care of their cases, but they will not be killed if they surrender," he said.

He reiterated his belief that the Marawi siege would end by Sunday after government troops recovered the White Mosque.

"Kahapon hindi pa nakuha ang White Mosque dahil malakas ang resistance. Ngayon I got a text na nakuha na so konti na lang. I think by Sunday tapos na ito. Konti na lang just clearing up operations," Lorenzana said.

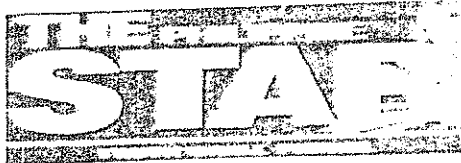
On Sunday, Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, said they had received information that some Maute members had indicated their willingness to surrender.

Brawner said they received feelers from Maute members after the Joint Task Force Marawi put up speakers blasting out the procedures on how members of the Maute group could surrender.

He said those who would surrender, whether combatants or those caught in the crossfire, would undergo medical and psychiatric testing.

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Lorenzana seeks passage of disaster management department bill

By **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

SUBIC, Zambales - Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday urged Congress to pass a proposed measure seeking the creation of a new department, which would focus on disaster management and promote resiliency during calamities.

Lorenzana said the bill remains pending in Congress.

"We expect the measure to become a law maybe in a year's time," Lorenzana told reporters who participated in the Advance Disaster Risk Reduction and Management course here.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council initiated a four-day seminar for media workers to help the government promote public awareness

and resiliency during calamities.

At least 20 typhoons enter the country every year, according to the state weather bureau.

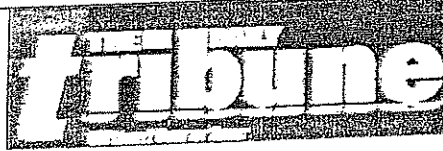
He noted that there are several versions of the proposed department on disaster management.

Lorenzana cited the need for the government to improve its response system during calamities after Super Typhoon Yolanda struck the country on Nov. 8, 2013.

He noted that the first responders were Americans, whose aircraft landed in Leyte and distributed relief goods to the typhoon victims.

Four years after Yolanda, Lorenzana said the government has adequate equipment to respond to calamities.

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Lorenzana: Marawi siege will be over by Sunday

By Mario J. Mallari

The Marawi City siege will be over by Sunday.

Thus, said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who announced yesterday that the Islamic State-inspired terrorists are just holed

up within one block in the main battle area.

At the same time, Lorenzana cited another breakthrough in the ongoing military offensives against the terrorists - the capture of the White Mosque.

"I think this will be over by

Sunday," declared Lorenzana, despite the heavy resistance put up until yesterday by terrorists at the White Mosque.

Lorenzana, however, maintained that clearing operations will continue until the entire area is declared free from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by the terrorists.

According to Lorenzana, there are still about 100 terrorists putting up resistance within the one-block battlefield.

The Defense chief also noted the surrender feelers being fanned by the terrorists through Lanao del Sur Rep. Maanyag Papandayan.

"Now, there was this offer to surrender by these Mautes. I was told by Congressman Papandayan...that they want to surrender," Lorenzana said.

He assured the safety of those who will choose to surrender.

"Just go out with your hands up in the air...anytime they can surrender, they can get out and they will not be killed," Lorenzana said.

"We will not kill people who are surrendering, your soldiers are not murderers...we will take them and the court will handle their case," he added.

As of Wednesday, the military claimed to have killed more than 700 terrorists and recovered almost the same number of high-powered firearms.

On the other hand, a total of 151 government troops were killed in action while 47 civilians also perished.

The Marawi City siege erupted last May 23 when government troops attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or ISIS in Southeast Asia.

Up to last week, the military said that Hapilon remained in the main battle area leading one of the two remaining groups of terrorists in fighting government troops. The other terrorist leader is Omar Maute of the Maute Group.

Several hostages are still being held by the terrorists.



Sunday is the day? Philippine Marines, marching in formation alongside armored personnel carriers, head to the frontline past damaged buildings in the Mapandi area of Marawi City as Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced yesterday that the siege will be over by Sunday despite the heavy resistance put up by terrorists at the White Mosque.

AFP

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Malaya
The National Newswatch

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Maute remnants eye surrender, says Lorenzana

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday said Maute Group members remaining in Marawi City have offered to surrender to the military after more than four months of fighting.

Lorenzana said the surrender feeler was relayed to him by Lanao del Sur Rep. Maanyag Papandayan Jr. last Wednesday when the military briefed members of the House Muslim affairs committee about the Marawi conflict that started on May 23 when the Maute attacked the city.

He did not say how the surrender feeler was relayed to Papandayan.

"He (Papandayan) told me they want to surrender," said Lorenzana. "I said 'there's no problem... I told him anytime they want to surrender, they can get out, we won't kill them'," said Lorenzana.

"Their only request is they should not be killed. Of course, we will not kill people who are surrendering. Our soldiers are not murderers. The people who will surrender, we will take them in," said Lorenzana.

However, Lorenzana said the Maute members who will opt to surrender will have to face charg-

es. "But they will not be killed if they surrender," he said.

Military officials last week said there were about 40 to 60 members left in the main battle area, holding 45 to 50 hostages.

On Wednesday, Lorenzana said the conflict may be over in three days. Earlier this week, AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said the fighting will be over in two to three weeks.

Told yesterday about Galvez' projection, Lorenzana said: "Three weeks? I said yesterday three days."

Lorenzana said he spoke with Galvez on Wednesday night about the ongoing operations in Marawi. "He said there's only one big block left, one block... It's now small. I think by Sunday, it's over."

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military Joint Task Force Lanao, said. "There is no deadline but we are doing our best."

He declined to say the size of the enemy's area. About two weeks ago, the military said the size of the main battle area is about 10 hectares with about 300 hundred structures.

The fighting has so far resulted in the death of 707 Maute members, 151 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians.

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BIFF member killed, camp in Maguindanao captured

BY VICTOR REYES

A MEMBER of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters was killed Wednesday in Maguindanao in a joint operation of government soldiers and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which also led to the capture of a BIFF camp.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in the province, said the operation was led by MILF rebels and supported by the military through the delivery of artillery and aerial support.

Encinas said MILF rebels started the assault on the BIFF camp in Barangay Tee in Data Salibu town at around 11 a.m. Wednesday. He said the camp fell after five hours of fighting, when the BIFF members withdrew.

"That was a joint operation, though there were no ground (government) groups actually deployed. It (assault) was led by the BIAF (Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces) of the MILF, supported by our air and artillery as-

sets," said Encinas.

Recovered from the camp was the body of a BIFF member, four improvised explosive devices, two M14 rifles, an M16 rifle, and a flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The BIFF pledged allegiance to the ISIS a few years ago.

The MILF and the military launched joint operations against the BIFF in Maguindanao last August 2, leading to on-and-off skirmishes. Over 40 BIFF members have been reported killed and dozens others have been injured in the fighting.

The MILF signed a peace accord with the government in 2014 and has vowed to fight terrorist and criminal elements operating in its area.

The BIFF, classified as a terrorist group, is composed of around 200 to 300 men, mostly former MILF members.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command, said the MILF is government's "partner in defeating terrorism and preventing it from thriving in our communities."

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPA ex-leader arrested for murder

By **DANNY J. ESTACIO**

CAMP NAKAR, Quezon — Police announced yesterday the arrest of a former leader of the New People's Army (NPA) operating in this province to face charges of murder and multiple attempted murder.

A joint team of the San Andres Municipal Police Station (MPS), the

Provincial Public Safety Company's (PPSC) 3rd Platoon, and the army's 85th Infantry Battalion captured Rolando Carandang, alias "Ka Michael," the former platoon leader of the NPA's Komiteng Sangay sa Platoon Berto of the Guerrilla Front 41.

Senior Superintendent Rhoderick C. Armamento, Quezon Police Provincial Office (PPO) director, said Caran-

dang was arrested in Sitio Aromahin, Barangay Talisay, San Andres town.

Armamento said the former NPA leader is not entitled to bail because he is charged with double murder and multiple attempted murder under criminal case numbers 14-6573-C to 14-6574-C before Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge Maria Chona E. Pulgar.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Lanao Norte solon calls on colleagues to support BBL

By CAMCER ORDONEZ IMAM

ILIGAN CITY - A Lanao del Norte lawmaker has called for support from his colleagues in the Lower House as Congress prepares to deliberate on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Lanao del Norte 1st District Representative Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo said support for the BBL should be given only if it conforms with the Constitution.

"As early as now, I can confidently say that I will vote "yes" to the proposed BBL. But, as my oath of office demands, it must conform to the Constitution of our Republic. I will support any move in the House of Representatives to ensure that the BBL adheres to our Constitution," Dimaporo said.

"The era of the Bangsamoro is close at hand. The opportune timeline would be for Malacañang to sign it before the May 2018 barangay elections. That's seven months in total for the government to deliver. The house has calendared one month adjournment of Congress between October and November, and one month adjournment of Congress between December and January. That leaves only five official

working months left to approve the BBL in the House and the Senate," Dimaporo said.

Dimaporo said if the national government is serious about achieving peace in Mindanao, it should give Mindanaoans more than just the Bangsamoro. "We will never have peace so long as poverty remains persistent. The national government should strengthen development programs, such as the Pamana Program of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), which are one of the tools to curb poverty in conflict-affected areas," he said.

"We keep fighting with one another over control of a territory, but as far as the province of Lanao del Norte is concerned, the prevalence of poverty is our true enemy. What we need from the national government is development. The national government can sign as many peace agreements as it wants, but so long as poverty thrives in our region, there will always be social unrest. We cannot have sustainable peace without accelerated economic development. This is the position of peace-loving Filipino citizens from Lanao del Norte," Dimaporo said.

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ASG kidnaps Sulu councilor

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Military and police authorities in Sulu province are now conducting hot pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) who kidnapped Jolo, Sulu Councilor Zed Tan on Wednesday in Indanan, Sulu.

Joint Task Force Sulu Commander P.ig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said the councilor identified as Zed Tan, nephew of former Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan, was returning to the town proper along with his 11 biker companions when the kidnapping incident happened at the boundary of Barangay Timbangan and Barangay Tagbak in Indanan, Sulu at about 6 p.m., Wednesday.

Sobejana said about six fully armed members of the Ajan-Ajang group

which is affiliated with the ASG forcibly took Tan and made him board a red Tamaraw getaway vehicle which immediately sped towards the municipality of Talipao, Sulu, the adjacent town of Indanan.

According to reports, Tan is now in the custody of the Tanum group led by the Yadah brothers in the village of Tugas in Patikul, Sulu.

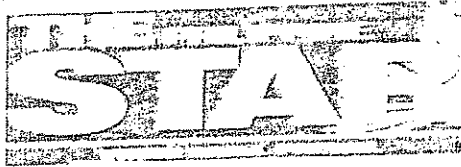
Sobejana declined to confirm the report but said they are "validating" the same report which they also received from their intelligence community in the area.

Sobejana said the military in Sulu continued to exert effort to locate Tan and free him from his captors.

Sobejana said he has created a Task Force that will conduct the rescue operation on Tan.

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4 BIFF men executed over contacts on phone

MAGUINDANAO - Four members of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have reportedly been executed after their leader discovered that their phones contained contacts with non-Muslim names.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, spokesman for the Task Force Central Mindanao, yesterday confirmed receiving reports from villagers about the execution by BIFF leader Esmael Abdulmalik of his four men.

The four were suspected to be providing the military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front information that led to the MILF's takeover of a BIFF camp on Wednesday.

Abdulmalik is the leader of a third BIFF faction that uses an Islamic State flag.

Members of municipal peace and order councils in different Maguindanao towns said Abdulmalik had Hamodi, Omar, Rasul and Asraf shot dead after he learned that they had been sending text messages to their non-Muslim contacts.

The messages reportedly indicated the group's location in Barangay Tee, Salibo town.

MILF fighters overran Abdulmalik's camp in Barangay Tee after six weeks of clashes in the area and in nearby Datu Piang and Sharif Saidona towns.

- John Unson

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Sulu gov's cousin seized by Abu Sayyaf

BY VICTOR REYES

A COUNCILOR of Jolo town in Sulu, who is a cousin of Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan II, was abducted Wednesday night by members of the Abu Sayyaf in Indanan town, also in Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Marawi, said Ezzenden Soud Tan, a member of the Tausog Bikers Club, and 11 fellow bikers were on the way back to Jolo, traversing a road between Barangays Timbangan and Tagbak, when the suspects seized Tan at around 6 p.m.

The kidnapers were aboard a red Tamaraw FX van, he said.

"Mostly, the perpetrators are members of the Abu Sayyaf... Search and rescue operations are ongoing," said Sobejana.

Tan's abduction brought to 14 the number of kidnap victims, including foreigners, in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

The military stepped up operations against the Abu Sayyaf last year, leading to rescue and recovery of a number of hostages. "We started with about 33 kidnap victims, now it's down to 14," said Sobejana.

The offensive has also resulted in the death of many Abu Sayyaf members, including sub-leaders. There are about 300 to 400 members of the Abu Sayyaf, mostly operating in Sulu.

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OPAPP hopes to end Peace Month with Marawi siege 'victory'

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

BAYUGAN CITY, Agusan del Sur - If the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will have its way, the best approach to mark the culmination of the National Peace Consciousness Month this September is for government troops to finally end the four-months long siege in Marawi City.

Such would be a "good coincidence," Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza told the Manila Bulletin yesterday.

"Well that's only by coincidence, hindi talaga pinlano 'yan na (we did not plan it) to mark the end of the Peace Month eh matatapos din 'yung sa Marawi (the Marawi siege will also end). But you know, how to end the Marawi siege depends really on the situation there and the capability of our government to beat the bad guys there," Dureza said.

"But it is a very good coincidence that talagang ma-clear 'yan (for Marawi City to finally be cleared) on September 30 which is also the culmination of our Peace Month, we can also use that as a very strong signal," he added.

Prior to this, Defense Secretary



OPAPP'S Peace Buzz arrives in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur to promote the culture of peace. The caravan is now in Davao City. (Photo by Martin Sadongdong)

Delfin Lorenzana said on Wednesday that the Marawi siege, which started on May 23, could possibly be finished by the military within three days, or on September 30, Saturday. Lorenzana said that he made this assessment based on ground reports.

Although it is hard to predict whether the Marawi siege could finally be over in a few days, Dureza remained

optimistic of the troops' capability to deliver.

Dureza also noted that as soon as the Marawi siege is over, a lot of things are needed to be done for the rehabilitation of the war-torn city.

"You know, we don't use the word end, eh. Everything is always a beginning. When you say end of Marawi siege, it's the beginning of a lot of things to be

done like fixing broken relationships, rebuilding the physically damaged structures, bringing back the evacuees who suffered to reconstruct their lives, marami eh (there's a lot)," Dureza explained.

"Eh ito namang sa OPAPP, September being the peace month, it's just really to highlight the celebration of peace but actually there is no end. In fact, the rehabilitation stage would definitely be a one-nation approach eh, like for instance sa Bangon Marawi, different agencies 'yan so kami may participation 'din to help the city and the people recover," he said.

Dureza also hinted of the possible trip of the Peace Buzz to a safe zone in Marawi City for a brief program. "Let's go," he said. He is expected to attend the second of the two-day stop of the Peace Buzz in Davao City today, September 29.

The OPAPP launched the "Peace Buzz: Byaheng Kapayapaan" nationwide caravan in Baguio City last September 21 to promote a culture of peace in observance of the National Peace Consciousness Month. The theme of the Peace Month this year is "Puso para sa Kapayapaan, Magkaisa para sa Bayan."

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Pahina. 7

NPA turned hired killer, nasakote

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Nasakote ng pulisya ang dating rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) na naging gun-for-hire na responsable sa ilang kaso ng pagpatay sa Ilagan City, Isabela kamakalawa. Sinabi ni P/Supt. Ariel Quilang, hepe ng Ilagan City police station, tumugma sa ballistic examination ang bala ng cal. 45 pistol na gamit ng suspek na si Warlito Cardona sa mga kaso ng pamamaril noong Agosto 2017 laban sa magsyota sa Barangay Marana 1st at pagpatay kina Joey Molicara, 44; at Vincent Guzman, 34, drug surrenderer. Ayon kay Quilang, si Cardona ay tumiwalag sa NPA rebs at nagpasyang magsolo ng lakad bilang hired killer simula pa noong 1985. ***Raymund Catindig***

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Pahina. 2

'Wag kaming patayin, susuko na kami - Maute

Tiniyak ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na hindi papatayin ang mga nalalabi pang Maute-ISIS na boluntaryong susuko sa tropa ng pamahalaan kaugnay ng Marawi siege na nasa ika-129 araw na kahapon.

Tugon ito ni Lorenzana matapos iparating sa kaniya ni Lanao del Sur Rep. Mauyag Papandayan na nais ng sumuko ng natitira pang mga Maute terrorists sa battle zone.

"Sinabi sakin ni [Lanao del Sur] Rep. Mauyag Papandayan during the Marawi briefing by the Muslim Affairs Committee na gusto nilang sumu-render.... Ang request

lang daw, 'wag lang sila patayin," pahayag ni Lorenzana. "Sinabi ko wala namang problema sa katunayan ay nag-iikot ang ating tropa gamit ang mga bullhorns sa Marawi City upang himukin ang Maute-ISIS na magsisuko na," ayon kay Lorenzana.

Sinabi ni Lorenzana na dahil inaasahang matatapos na sa mga susunod na araw ang bakbakan sa Marawi City ay dapat na sumuko na ang mga nalalabi pang mga terorista sa lugar.

"Kung gusto nyong sumu-render lumabas kayo with your hands up in the air, so sabi ko sa kanya anytime they want

to surrender, they can get out, hindi sila papatayin," sabi pa ng Defense chief.

Tiniyak din ni Lorenzana na hindi pinapatay ng tropang gobyerno ang mga kaaway na nais sumuko.

"Of course we will not kill people who are surrendering, hindi naman murderer ang mga sundalo eh. People who will surrender, we will take them in," sabi pa niya.

Ipauubaya na rin nila sa korte ang pagpapataw

ng kaparusahan sa mga susukong Maute.

Una nang sinabi ni Lorenzana na umaasa siyang aabutin na lamang ng tatlong araw ang bakbakan sa lungsod matapos na mabawi na ang White Mosque sa mga terorista.

Sa kasalukuyan, nasa 80-100 na lang ang Maute sa lungsod habang 707 ang napapatay na terorista, 151 sa tropa ng gobyerno at 47 sibilyan. (Joy Cantos)

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BIFF camp falls after land, air strikes

From Update Philippines (Sep 28): **BIFF camp falls after land, air strikes**

Government troops overran a fortified camp of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) following airstrike and artillery bombardment in the province of Maguindanao, a top military official announced Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, Joint Task Force Central commander, said the fallen camp of the BIFF is located at Sitio Dagaring, Barangay Tee, Datu Salibu, Maguindanao

Dela Vega said troops from the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion have recovered a cadaver of a slain BIFF member, four improvised bombs, two-M14 rifles, one M-16 Armalite rifle and a flag of the Islamic State for Iraq and Syria (ISIS) when they overran the camp at around 5:20 p.m. Wednesday.

He said the camp was targeted by airstrike and artillery bombardment while the ground troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members maneuvered towards the fallen BIFF camp.

"Troops thoroughly scoured the area as the joint security campaign with the MILF is sustained to defeat the (BIFF) terrorists," Dela Vega said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said that "all means are currently being exhausted with the support of the MILF as combat operations are being launched in the area."

<https://www.update.ph/2017/09/biff-camp-falls-after-land-air-strikes/21130>

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Duterte: US helped us a lot, provided crucial military equipment for Marawi

From Update Philippines (Sep 28): **Duterte: US helped us a lot, provided crucial military equipment for Marawi**

President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday during the 116th commemoration of the Balangiga Encounter acknowledged that the US has been making efforts to repay the damages brought by US occupation in the country.

"I'd rather be friendly to Americans now because the Americans redeemed themselves a lot... They helped us a lot. They were engaged here during the Japanese occupation. I would not say that they are saviors, but they are our allies," he added.

"Even today, the Americans provided crucial equipment to our soldiers fighting terrorists in Marawi."

The Chief Executive admitted that he turned emotional when he demanded for the return of the bells during his State of the Nation Address on July 24.

"I was under advise by DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) to temper my language and avoid cursing, which I am prone to do if I get emotional," he said.

This advice prompted him to be friendlier to the US, he said.

<https://www.update.ph/2017/09/duterte-us-helped-us-a-lot-provided-crucial-military-equipment-for-marawi/21136>

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

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Mautes used bank vaults to hide from air strikes

From Rappler (Sep 28): **Mautes used bank vaults to hide from air strikes**

'Pinagtaguan yun kapag binobomba sila ng fighter jet eh. Alam kasi nilang matibay yung vault,' says former Maute hostage Lordvin Acopio

The Maute fighters in Marawi City opened the vault of government bank Land Bank of the Philippines inside the battle area, a former hostage revealed.

Former Maute hostage Lordvin Acopio, a teacher at Dansalan College, shared in a tell-all interview how the fighters hid in the vaults when the military conducted air strikes.

"Pinagtaguan yun kapag binobomba sila ng fighter jet eh. Alam kasi nilang matibay yung vault... Malaking vault (They hide inside the vault when the fighter jets are bombarding us. They know it's fortified. It's a big vault)," said Acopio.

Acopio said he doesn't know where they put the money in the vault.

But Acopio could not tell where the Maute fighters placed the money in the vaults. He said he assumed he took them.

The military was scheduled to turn over on Thursday, September 28, 4 vaults recovered from the site.

The government bank was located at the ground floor of the C&D Centerpoint building in the heart of the battle area, one of the Maute strongholds that the military found difficult to retake. It was where Army Captain Rommel Sandoval was killed, the highest ranking official to die in Marawi.

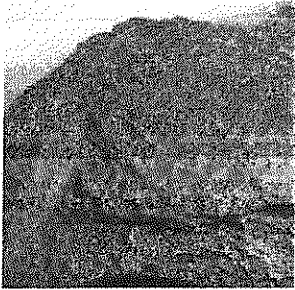
Land Bank served as headquarters and makeshift hospital when Safrullah Medical Hospital fell to government hands.

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/183652-maute-landbank-vault-looting>

www.dwdd.com.ph

DEFENSE TACTICS | SND defends use of air strike vs NPAs in Batangas

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on September 20, 2017 at 4:55 PM



SUBIC, Zambales (DWDD) – Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana defended the use air strikes by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against the terrorist group New Peoples Army (NPA) in Batangas.

In statement made during the Advance Disaster Risk Reduction Seminar in Subic, Zambales, Sec Lorenzana said that the use of air strikes by the military is part of the combat operations launched against NPA terrorist in the area.

Aside from this, it also served as protection for possible retaliation of the terrorist on the civilian population near the area.



The AFP was forced to use its air assets due to the heavy resistance by the enemy. But Lorenzana assured the public that once the enemies defense weakens, they would discontinue the air strikes.

He added that AFP officials are making sure of the accuracy in hitting their targets to ensure that there would be no civilian casualty.

Lastly, the secretary is yet to receive reports on the number of terrorist NPA they are facing in Batangas. **ALS/AES**

www.dwdd.com.ph

CLASH | Gov't Forces discovers NPA encampment in Batangas

Posted by Alvin Santiago on September 26, 2024 at 1:44 PM



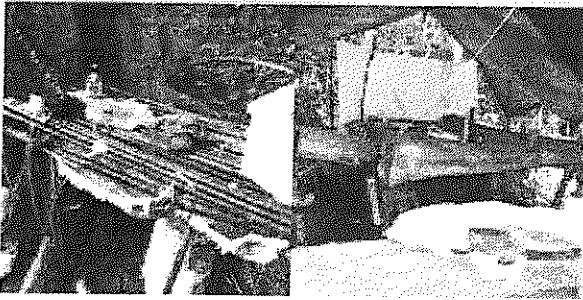
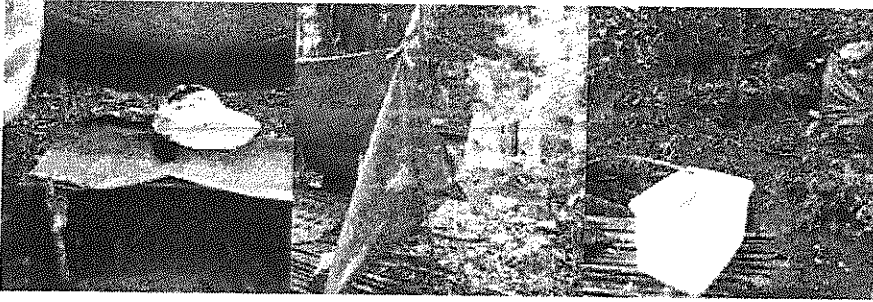
CAVINTI, Laguna (DWDD) – Joint elements of the 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force, and

Batangas Provincial Public Safety Company of the Philippine National Police while conducting security operations at Mt Banoy, Brgy Talumpok Silangan, Batangas City encountered a group of encamped members of the terror group New People's Army at 8:50am last Sunday, September 24.

A 40-minute firefight ensued leaving one (1) male NPA dead along with 2 M16 Rifles and bandolier with ammunition, 1 printer, 3 25-kilo rice, 1 BOSCO Portable Generator, 1 red bag, 1 cable wire, 10 live ammo for M203 Grenade Launcher and subversive documents. Troops also found strings tied around the perimeter of said temporary encampment believed to be used for detonating Improvised Explosive Device. No casualty was reported from the government side.



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



The NPA camp contains a mess hall, stock room, training ground, and 12 tents.

Col Arnulfo Marcelo B Burgos Jr, Commander of 202nd Brigade, directed the troops to conduct hot pursuit operations. The Filipino people's Bayanihan spirit was felt when the full force of the government was utilized in the joint follow up operations between different agencies against the NPA rebels through the establishment of PNP Checkpoints, Philippine Coast Guard seaborne blockades, Army pursuit operations and close air support from the Philippine Air Force.

MGen Rhoderick Parayno, Commander 2ID, said that the NPAs were monitored in said area through the cooperation of the civilians leading to a strong intelligence build up.

The government troops were able to thwart the NPA's terroristic plans of sowing fear in the hearts of the people of Batangas. MGen Parayno lauded the efforts of the 730th Combat Group as well as the cooperation of the residents of Brgy Talumpok Silangan.

"The said encounter is a concrete and tangible result of the Batangas Alliance against Insurgency, one of the many counter insurgency alliances existing in Region 4A, which was forged to attain every Batangueños aspiration for a peaceful and prosperous province" MGen Parayno added. **2DPAO/MCAG**