

Army Vision: By 2031, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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

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ONLINE NEWS

01 JANUARY 2017

www.pna.com.ph

30 percent of Marawi City cleared of explosives: AFP

By Priam Nepomuceno December 31, 2017, 11:27 am

MANILA -- Some 30 percent of Marawi City's war-torn areas have been cleared of unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices left by ISIS-inspired terrorist groups, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Saturday.

In a statement, Joint Task Force Marawi deputy commander and spokesperson, Col. Romeo Brawner, said the clearing operations are being conducted by the military's Joint Engineer Task Group (JETG).

"The JETG continues its main mission of clearing explosives completing around 30 percent of the whole most affected area," said JETG head Major Gen. Arnold Rafael Depakakibo.

As of Dec. 15, a total of 2,853 assorted unexploded ordnance and 415 improvised explosive devices were recovered and disarmed by the JETG, with the support of the Explosives and Ordnance Disposal Company and K-9 Teams from the Philippine Army and the Philippines Air Force.

Depakakibo said the JETG also completed the clearing of around 20 kilometers of roads, three major bridges, a school, and three places of worship immediately after the liberation of Marawi.

This has resulted in the timely conduct of post-conflict needs assessment by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"We also continue our limited construction support to government agencies involved in supporting the maintenance of evacuation centers," Depakakibo said.

Aside from construction support, the JETG also assisted the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in the construction of 500 temporary shelters for the evacuees.

Of the number, 250 units were already given last week, while the other 250 will be provided next month.

More than 500 military engineers are currently deployed in Marawi City as part of the JETG. The task group is supporting the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Marawi which is led by Task Force Bangon Marawi.

Aside from manpower, the AFP has utilized its construction vehicles and equipment to clear-off rubbles and debris as well as in the demolition of buildings in the city.

Over the course of the Marawi conflict, military engineers provided support to operating troops in the area which included route reconnaissance and surveys, road and site clearing operations, wall breaching and timber cutting operations, and constructions of ramps and platforms for mechanized assets. **(PNA)**

www.pna.com.ph

AFP to uphold New Year SOMO vs Reds

By Priam Nepomuceno December 31, 2017, 11:18 am

MANILA -- Despite repeated attacks by members of the New People's Army (NPA) during Christmas truce, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Saturday said it is still very much committed to uphold the suspension of military operation (SOMO) during the New Year.

In a message, AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo said the AFP "is committed to uphold the SOMO scheduled on Dec. 30, 2017 to Jan. 2, 2018."

As a matter of "policy and principle", Arevalo said the military will continue to follow orders and guidelines under the ceasefire declaration.

He added that the AFP remains steadfast in protecting the public and all vulnerable communities from treacherous attacks of the NPA.

"The public (is) rest assured that as they celebrate New Year, our soldiers will be there to guard peace as our units on the ground maintain their active defense posture to prevent NPA atrocities against our communities," Arevalo said.

The New Year's SOMO started on 6 p.m. of Dec. 30 and will end 6 p.m. on Jan. 2.

"Our soldiers, all year-round commit to foil the evil plans of the CPP-NPA-NDF. The AFP will be together with the people," Arevalo said.

Arevalo also urged all Filipinos to unite against the anti-people NPA extortion gang disguised as "fake revolution," and called on the remaining members of the NPA to surrender and take the road of peace for the betterment of the country. (PNA)

www.pna.com.ph

Concede to SC ruling on martial law, Calida urges opposition solons

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan December 31, 2017. 4:47 pm

MANILA -- Solicitor General Jose Calida urged opposition lawmakers belonging to the House "Magnificent 7" bloc who filed a petition seeking to stop the one-year extension of martial law in Mindanao to concede to the Supreme Court's ruling declaring President Rodrigo Duterte's martial law declaration as constitutional.

"The extension of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao for one year is not only factual but more importantly, compelling," Calida said in a statement on Sunday.

The petitioners, led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) or a writ of preliminary injunction to stop the implementation of the re-extension pending adjudication of their petition.

The other petitioners are Representatives Tomasito Villarin, Edgar Erice, Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr., Gary Alejano and Emmanuel Billones.

In their petition, the lawmakers asked why the year-long extension of martial law in Mindanao was "inordinately longer" than the original proclamation that limited the declaration to only 60 days.

"A full year re-extension, aside from being factually unwarranted, is oppressively long and patently unconstitutional," the petitioners said.

"He should concede that the Supreme Court already decided that the martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus covered the entire Mindanao," Calida said, referring to Lagman.

Calida said there was no provision in the 1987 Constitution that limits the period of extension to only 60 days.

"There is no provision in the Constitution that limits the period of extension to 60 days only. "The only criteria: that the invasion of rebellion shall persist and that public safety requires it," Calida added.

"The 1987 Constitution vested Congress with the authority to extend the proclamation of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus for a period to be determined by it," said Calida.

"This is a political question as it is a controversy which revolves around policy choices and value determinations constitutionally committed to the executive or legislative branches for resolution," he added.

Defending the extension of the iron rule, Calida called the argument of the opposition lawmakers "asinine," or in other words, "stupid."

"The argument that this rebellion can be quelled in 60 days is asinine," he said.

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While Marawi City was already liberated by the state troops last October, Calida said there was still an "on-going" rebellion in Mindanao.

"In fact, the rebellion staged by various secessionists, jihadists, terrorists and communist groups in various places in Mindanao has been festering for several decades now. The argument that this rebellion can be quelled in 60 days is asinine," Calida said.

"Anyone who doubts the necessity of the extension should visit the various strongholds of the rebellious groups scattered all over Mindanao and see for himself their awesome armaments and the cadres of combatants whose avowed missions are to overthrow the government or to carve out provinces away from the sovereignty of the Philippines," he added.

Calida also dared the opposition lawmakers to visit the strongholds of the rebel groups to see for themselves the "awesome armaments" and the "cadres of combatants" to be used to bring down the government.

In a two-page order issued Friday, the SC gave the respondents -- represented by Solicitor General Jose Calida -- 10 days to comment on the petition for a temporary restraining order against the extension.

The respondents were Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno and Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

"The petition appears to be sufficient in form and substance" and consequently required the respondents Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, among others, to "comment on the petition and the prayer for temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction within a non-extendible period of ten (10) days from notice hereof," the SC said.

In a 240-27 vote, both chambers of Congress voted to approve Duterte's request to extend the declaration of martial law in Mindanao until the end of 2018.

Calida explained that Congress' vote declaring the extension as valid was a political process.

"The congressional imprimatur on the validity of the extension is a political question that has been resolved by the legislature," the solicitor general said.

Earlier this month, the government's top lawyer scored legal victories in the Supreme Court after a majority of the justices voted in favor of Duterte's declaration of martial law and affirmed their decision with finality.

The SC's 82-page landmark decision, penned by Associate Justice Mariano Del Castillo, said that the 1987 Constitution grants Duterte the prerogative to put any part of the country under martial rule.

"There is no constitutional edict that martial law should be confined only in the particular place where the armed public uprising actually transpired," the SC declared. **(PNA)**

<http://www.bomboradyo.com>

3 NPA members sa Sultan Kudarat, sumuko sa militar

Posted by: Bomboradyo/Trinidad | December 31, 2017 | 0/0 Comments

KORONADAL CITY – Dumagdag sa listahan ng 33rd Infantry Makabayan Battalion ang tatlong lumad na sumuko matapos hindi tinupad ng New People’s Army (NPA) ang pangako sa kanilang bibigyan ng edukasyon kapalit ng pagpasok sa komunistang grupo.

Ang tatlong rebeldeng nagmula sa tribong Manobo ay kinilalang sina Ryan Mama, 24 anyos; Daniel, 25 at Ruben Pagiloy, 21 na bumaba sa kanilang pinagtataguan sa kabundukan upang pormal na isuko ang kanilang mga armas sa gobyerno.

Bukas silang tinanggap ng militar sa pangunguna ni Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, ang Battalion Commander ng 33rd IB sa Sultan Kudarat.

Ayon kay Ryan, nagising sila sa katotohanang walang mabuting maidudulot ang pagpasok nila sa rebelde at komunistang grupo lalo na at hindi tinupad ni Ka Yoyo na isang Visayan NPA commander ang kanyang pangako sa mga baging recruits na bibigyan ang kanilang pamilya ng pangkabuhayan at mabibigyan sila ng edukasyon at school diploma mula sa mga lisensyadong guro.

Kaugnay nito, ang tatlo ay bibigyan ng malaking oportunidad ng gobyerno kung saan sila ang pag-aaralin sa Alternative Learning System (ALS) na ibinibigay ng Department of Education (DepEd), bibigyan din ang mga ito ng pangkabuhayan at ibabalik sa lipunan.

<http://www.bomboradyo.com>

Yearender: Pagkamatay ni Isnilon Hapilon, malaking kawalan sa teroristang grupo – AFP

Posted By: [Anah Saberanon](#) | December 31, 2017 | 10:38 AM | No Comments

Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute

Malaking kawalan sa teroristang Abu Sayyaf ang pagkamatay ng kanilang top notoryus lider na si Isnilon Toton Hapilon.

Ayon kay retired AFP chief at ngayon ay DILG USec. Eduardo Ano, na ang pagkamatay ni Hapilon ay malaking blow sa grupo.

Umani ng papupi ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa pagkakapatay ng mga sundalo sa Emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia.



Amiando si Ano na matagumpay ang kanilang operasyon sa Marawi laban sa mga teroristang Maute kahit ilang buwan din ito natapos.

Napatay si Hapilon kasama si Omar Maute sa pinalakas na operasyon ng militar laban sa teroristang Maute sa Marawi City.

Si Hapilon ay tubong Lantawan, Basilan at ipinanganak nuong March 10, 1968.

Pero batay sa Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at ng United States Department of State Rewards for Justice Program na batay sa school transcripts nito ipinanganak siya nuong March 18, 1966 at ang birth place nito ay sa Maluso, Basilan at ang nailistang parent/guardian nito ay si Haridja Hapilon na isang housekeeper at ang ama nito ay isang imam sa kanilang barangay, mayroon siyang limang kapatid.

Kilala din si Hapilon sa paggamit ng maraming mga aliases na Abu Musab, Sol, Abu Tuan, Esnilon, Salahuddin, Abubakar Hapilon, Amah Hi Omar, Abu Omar, Abubakar at Bakkal.

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Mga lenguahe na ginagamit ni Hapilon ay Tausug, Tagalog, Yakan, Arabic at marunong din ito ng English.

Nuong April 2016 lumabas sa isyu ng ISIL's weekly newsletter Al Naba na si Hapilon ang itinalagang "emir of all Islamic State forces sa Pilipinas".

Si Hapilon at ang Maute brothers ang nanguna sa pagsakop sa siyudad ng Marawi.

Umabot sa higit limang buwan ang sagupaan sa pagitan ng militar at teroristang grupo kung saan nasa 974 na mga terorista ang nasawi, 11 ang naaresto.

Sa panig naman ng pamahalaan nasa 165 nasawi kung saan 12 dito ay nasawi dahil sa friendly fire habang isa ang iniulat na missing.

Higit 1,400 naman na mga sundalo ang nasugatan nasa 87 civilian ang nasawi kung saan 40 dito ay namatay dahil sa sakit o karamdaman.

Ayon kay retired general Ano, madaling araw nuong October 16, 2017 napatay ng mga sundalong Army si Hapilon sa isinagawang operasyon kasama si Omar Maute.

October 20, 2017, kinumpirma ng AFP batay sa resulta ng DNA testing na ang most wanted terrorist sa bansa na si Isnilon Hapilon na si Isnilon Hapilon.

Ayon sa militar mismo ang US Federal Bureau of Investigation ang nagkumpirma na patay na nga si Hapilon.

"We have received an official report that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation has confirmed that the DNA sample taken from a body recovered by our operating units in Marawi matches that of Isnilon Hapilon," pahayag ni Lorenzana.

"This process of verification is also being conducted on the cadavers of the other terrorists that have been recovered so far," dagdag pa ni Lorenzana.

Sina Hapilon at Omar Maute ay napatay sa pamamagitan ng sniper fire madaling araw ng Lunes, October 16.

Si Omar Maute ay nagtamo ng headshot habang si Hapilon ay nagtamo ng tama ng bala sa dibdib. Martes, October 17, idiniklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na liberated na na ang Marawi mula sa mga terorista kasunod ng pagkakapatay sa kanilang lider.

Hanggang sa ngayon wala pa ring malinaw kung sino ang pumalit sa pwesto ng napatay na si ASG Leader Isnilon Hapilon na siyang Emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia.

Pero sa report ni PNP Chief PDGen. Ronald Dela Rosa ang Malaysian terrorist na si Amin Baco ang itinalagang bagong emir ng ISIS Southeast Asia.

Ito ay matapos aminin ng naarestong Malaysian terrorists na si Mohammad Ilham Syahputra na si Baco ang tumatayong emir ng Maute-ISIS group.

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Sinabi ni Dela Rosa na bukod aniya sa pagiging emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia, si Amin Baco din ang lider ng mga natitira pang Maute members.

Pero ayon kay Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, walang dapat na ikabahala ang publiko kahit hindi pa nahuhuli ng militar ang sinasabing pumalit kay Isnilon Hapilon na si Amin Baco, isang Malaysian National.

Aniya, hindi kasing lakas ni Hapilon si Baco dahil ngayon lamang din lumutang ang pangalan nito. Hindi rin aniya kaya ni Baco ang kakayahan ni Hapilon na maghakot ng mga tauhan.

Sinabi pa nito na sinusuyod na ng militar ang bawat sulok ng Marawi at mga kalapit lugar upang matagpuan at mahuli si Amin Baco.

Samantala, as of December 15, 2017 nasa 30 porsiyento na ng mga lugar sa lungsod ng Marawi ang na-clear na ng AFP engineers mula sa mga improvised explosive device (IED) lalo na sa mga unexploded ordnance, partikular ang mga lugar na lubhang naapektuhan sa labanan sa pagitan ng militar at mga teroristang Maute.

Sa ngayon daw nasa higit 500 military engineers ang kasalukuyang naka-deploy sa Marawi City sa ilalim ng JETG.

Ayon kay Major Gen. Arnold Rafael Depakakibo, chief engineer ng AFP, ongoing pa rin ang kanilang misyon na alisin ang mga pampasabog sa mga apektadong lugar.

Sinabi ni Depakakibo nasa kabuuang 2,853 assorted unexploded ordnance at 415 IED na ang narekober ng engineering personnel ng AFP.

Aniya, ginawa nila ang clearing sa pamamagitan ng suporta at tulong mula sa Explosives and Ordnance Disposal Company ng AFP at K-9 Teams mula sa Philippine Army at Philippine Air Force.

Inihayag din nito na nakumpleto na ng Joint Engineering Task Group (JETG) ang clearing operations sa halos 20 kilometro na mga primary at secondary roads, tatlong major bridges, isang eskwelahan at tatlong places of worship.

Tumutulong din umano ang AFP engineers sa kanilang ginagawang limited construction support sa mga government agencies na involved sa pagsuporta at pag-maintain sa mga evacuation centers.

Umaasiste rin ang JETG sa Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) sa pagbuo sa 500 temporary shelters para sa mga evacuees kung saan nasa 250 units na ang na-award last week.

Habang ang natitirang 250 units ay nakatakdang ibahagi sa susunod na buwan.



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