

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



TEAM ARMY

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NEWS CLIPPINGS

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

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ONLINE NEWS

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'Left out' Maranaos seek people-led Marawi rehab

Patrick Quintos, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 30 2018 07:34 AM

MANILA - Seeking a people-led rehabilitation of their war-ravaged hometown, concerned Maranaos appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to stop the current plans to establish an economic zone and a military camp in Marawi City, until their pleas are heard.

In a statement, civilian group Ranaw Multi-Sectoral Movement said the ordinary folks of the lakeside city have been left out in the plans laid out by the Task Force Bangon Marawi during consultations held at the city hall last week.

"Plans have been made without our participation. Plans that neither bear the stamp of our will nor reflect our culture. Plans whose mechanics and implementation are not clear to us. But one thing is clear: the people of Marawi are largely left out," the group said.

"Those who came to present the plan dismissed our comments, recommendations, and protestations as though we knew nothing and have no business getting involved in rebuilding our very own city," it added.

The group feels that the rehab plan presented by the agency leading the daunting task of restoring a war-torn city is "an invasion of a different kind" as it is far from the vision of Maranao people.

The "people of the lake," who have resisted foreign invasions throughout history, insist their right to lead the rebuilding efforts in their homeland and not just by any urban planner, investor, or architect.

"Mr. President, please put a stop to the proposed ecozone and military camp plans until we have been heard, until our dreams and aspirations, our cultural sensitivities and our faith find expression in the rebuilding of Marawi City, our home. This is the cry of our people. This is the cry of Marawi," the group said.

Samira Gutoc, organizer of civilian group Ranao Rescue Team, said the order creating Task Force Bangon Marawi has to be amended.

Gutoc said her group has already submitted to the Senate a position paper signed by civilian groups and their leaders.

"Sa bakwit position paper, one of the plea sa paper is to amend the President's executive order na gawing mandatory ang membership ng civilian leaders sa Task Force Bangon Marawi," she said.

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, headed by Secretary Eduardo del Rosario, is the lead agency of Task Force Bangon Marawi.

They earlier presented plans of building riverside parks and promenades in ground zero where Marawi's town center was located. A military camp is also set to rise in the southern city.

Gutoc said plans presented to them by Del Rosario have contentious issues. During the consultation last week, she said the situation became tense when the HUDCC chief rejected their plea to stop building a military camp in Marawi.

"Decision-making has to be people-led, which means an assembly na dapat nire-recognize, hindi lang consultation, the plan should be based on the plan by the people. You just don't arrive sa Capitol with a drawing ng vision mo dahil may developer ka," she said.

Five months of war between terrorists and state troops reduced the once busy city of Marawi into rubble.

Residents of the most affected areas are set to enter ground zero for the first time since the siege erupted in May 23, 2017.

However, the residents will only be allowed to go there for a limited time to salvage whatever they can from their destroyed houses. They will go back to temporary shelters and stay there for at least 3 years while the government rebuilds the city.

The people of Marawi hopes the President, who in his speeches would often mention his Maranao blood, would hear their plea.

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BIFF sub-leader shot dead in North Cotabato town

From ABS-CBN (Mar 30): **BIFF sub-leader shot dead in North Cotabato town**



Buds Basilan, a sub-leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, was killed near a checkpoint in Aleosan town, North Cotabato on Thursday night.

ALEOSAN, North Cotabato—A sub-leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters was killed near a checkpoint in Sitio Poypoyon, Barangay Dualing here on Thursday night, police said.

Buds Basilan, who has an outstanding warrant of arrest for arson, was flagged down at a checkpoint and allegedly tried to shoot at authorities.

"Du'n na nag-fire ang tropa. Naunahan lang siya," said Aleosan chief of police Sr. Insp. Edwin Abantes.

Abantes said they received an intelligence report that Basilan planned to transport a homemade bomb from Barangay Kudarangan, Midsayap town to Barangay Dungguan, in Aleosan.

Basilan was taken to Aleosan District Hospital for treatment but was declared dead on arrival.

Recovered from him were a hand grenade, a caliber-.45 pistol, and a magazine that contains four ammunition.

According to BIFF Karialan faction spokesperson Abu Amir, he personally knew Basilan as a member of the organization since the time of BIFF founder, the late Ustadz Ameril Umbra Kato.

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Army general celebrates birthday with Maguindanao orphans

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 30): **Army general celebrates birthday with Maguindanao orphans**



REMEMBERING ORPHANS. Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Army's 6th Infantry Division commander, distributes food to some of the orphaned children of Maguindanao as he celebrated his natal day with them. (6th ID photo)

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao -- Army Maj. Gen. Arnel B. Dela Vega, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, celebrated his natal day on Wednesday in the company of orphans of Maguindanao, describing it as his most meaningful birthday celebration.

Dela Vega spent about two hours with orphans housed at the Markazul Aytam orphanage in Barangay Gang here. It was the second time that he spent time with the orphans on his birthday.

The 6th ID chief said he wanted to inspire the orphans, mostly Maguindanaoans, to push with their studies and earn a degree in the coming years. Their parents either abandoned them or have perished due to violence that transpired in their communities in Maguindanao.

Taking up Arabic lessons, the students are determined to memorize the whole Qur-an as required by the Madrasa. Many dream of becoming religious teachers and become ustadz or work abroad as missionary.

Municipal Mayor Shamin Mastura lauded Dela Vega's decision to spend his birthday with the orphans describing it as an act of gratitude for all the blessings he received as a military officer and as a family man.

Dela Vega, with the help of local officials and peace advocates, distributed food packs, school supplies and books.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the blessings that the Almighty God has given me. I want to share these blessings with you today," Dela Vega told the orphaned students in the vernacular.

"Keep dreaming, help yourselves, keep on pushing yourselves to attain your dreams in life. If you want to be a soldier, in time, all you have to do is to tell us and we will be glad to welcome in the military service," Dela Vega added.

He challenged the young orphans to share whatever they can, either big or small things, so that a peaceful community could be established in Maguindanao.