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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 September 2017

Monday

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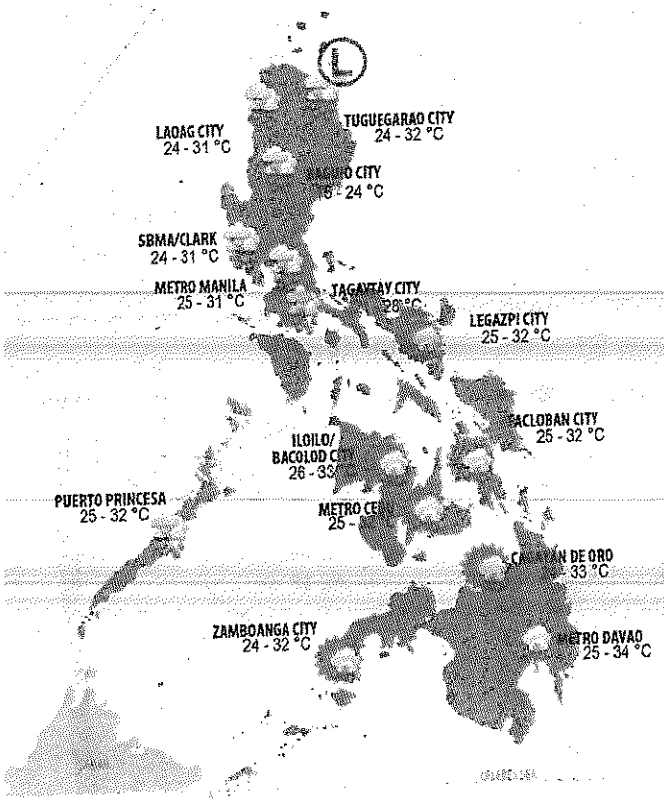
ODAY'S WEATHER

AUGUST 31, 2017 | THURSDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA

55 KM NORTHEAST OF APARRI, CAGAYAN

(As of 4:00 PM - August 30, 2017)



3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST	SEP 1 Friday	SEP 2 Saturday	SEP 3 Sunday
METRO MANILA	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C
LAOAG	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 25 °C	16 - 26 °C	16 - 26 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 - 29 °C	22 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C
LEGAZPI	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C

3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST	SEP 1 Friday	SEP 2 Saturday	SEP 3 Sunday
METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C	24 - 33 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	23 - 33 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:44 AM	6:09 PM	12:44 PM	11:42 PM

FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON	LOW TIDE (MANILA SOUTH HARBOR)	HIGH TIDE (MANILA SOUTH HARBOR)
AUG 29 4:13 PM	SEP 6 3:03 PM	1:31 PM 0.29 Meter	4:33 AM 0.97 Meter

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AIR 21 SAGOT KO, PADALA MO.

4 September 2017

THE STAR

Page: 1

Bato on drug war: Full speed ahead

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is not slowing down in the war on drugs despite criticisms over the killing of 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos during an anti-narcotics operation in Caloocan City.

Instead, PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa has told police units that it's full speed ahead for the war against illegal drugs, although he told them to be mindful of procedures.

"I am not ordering you to slow down. I am ordering you to be at full speed. That's my instruction to my regional directors," Dela Rosa said. "I want the same intensity. They should not be distracted, but must make sure that they do things properly."

On Friday night, Western Visayas' most wanted drug lord and his son were shot dead by law enforcers who raided a house in Jaro, Iloilo.

Richard Prevendido, a resident of Barangay Bakhaw, Mandurriao district, and his son Jason were killed after clashing with police who were serving an arrest warrant in a house in Phase 4, Landheights Subdivision in Barangay Balabago.

The PNP chief issued the order during their command conference last week attended by the regional directors and heads of the police National Support Units.

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Bato From Page 1

Last Aug. 16, Delos Santos was killed during police operations in Caloocan City. Police later claimed the boy was a drug runner and used to sell 10 grams of shabu or P18,000 a day in their area before he was killed.

However, witnesses pointed out Delos Santos was shot in the head even when the boy was already pleading for his life, thus the PNP-Internal Affairs Service and the Senate conducted an investigation into the case.

Even President Duterte, who has been vocal in supporting police officers killing drug pushers who fight it out with authorities or "*nanlaban*," ordered an investigation into the incident as he saw CCTV footage showing the boy being dragged by police officers before he was shot dead.

The President said he called Dela Rosa to investigate and jail the police officers.

But Duterte said in a recent speech that the drug war would continue but that he would not tolerate unlawful killings.

"I'll be impeached? Correct. I can be impeached. You may shoot me if you want, but I will not change my policy. There will be war against drugs," Duterte said.

In the same breath, Duterte also said he would not justify what happened to Delos Santos as it was bad and no longer done in the performance of duty.

He also clarified that he would not guarantee protection for abusive policemen.

"I said I will protect those who are doing their duty. I never promised to protect those who are supposedly engaged in doing their duty but committing a crime in the process," Duterte said.

Reuters quoted a Children's Legal Rights and Development Center report that Delos Santos was one of 54 minors, aged one to 17, killed in Duterte's drug war. The CLRDC is a Manila-based advocacy group.

The government said the minors and other innocent victims of the drug war were collateral damage.

But under the #RealNumbersPH Data on Anti-Drug Campaign of the government, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the PNP reported that 465 minors were rescued from July 1, 2016 to Aug. 16, 2017 in the course of the drug war under the Duterte administration.

The same reports showed that a total of 3,577 people were killed and 101,061 drug personalities were arrested in 68,975 police operations during the same period. The government also seized 2,465.80 kilos of shabu with street value of P18.65 billion and P18.56 billion worth of shabu paraphernalia.

Authorities reported that a total of 363 government officials and employees were arrested, including 162 elected officials, 171 government employees and 30 uniformed personnel. The arrested suspects have been charged before the courts.

At the same time, 68 policemen and law enforcers were killed and 184 others were wounded in the illegal drug raids.

The same reports showed that there were 1,308,078 surrenderees from July 1, 2016 to Aug. 16, 2017, indicating no new surrenderees for about two months or since June 20.

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NORTH KOREA CLAIMS PERFECT H-BOMB TEST

STORY BY REUTERS

Sunday's earthshaking event is 10 to 20 times more powerful than previous nuclear tests, a level suggesting a real hydrogen bomb. Soon Pyongyang could declare itself a nuclear power. What's next? A14

FROM A1

SEOUL—North Korea on Sunday conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test of what it said was an advanced hydrogen bomb (H-bomb) for a long-range missile, marking a dramatic escalation of the regime's standoff with the United States and its allies.

The announcement from Pyongyang came a few hours after international seismic agencies detected a man-made earthquake near North Korea's test site, which Japanese and South Korean officials said was around 10 times more powerful than the tremor picked up after the rogue state's last nuclear test a year ago.

There was no independent confirmation that the detonation, which drew swift international condemnation, was an H-bomb rather than a less powerful atomic device. But Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Tokyo could not rule out the possibility that it was an H-bomb.

The test is a direct challenge to US President Donald Trump, who hours earlier had talked by phone with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about the "escalating" nuclear crisis in the region. Trump has previously vowed to stop North Korea developing nuclear weapons that could threaten the United States.

North Korea, which carries out its nuclear and missile programs in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions and sanctions, said in an announcement on state television that an H-bomb test ordered by leader Kim Jong-un was a "perfect success."

The bomb was designed to be mounted on its newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the announcement said.

'Extremely regrettable'

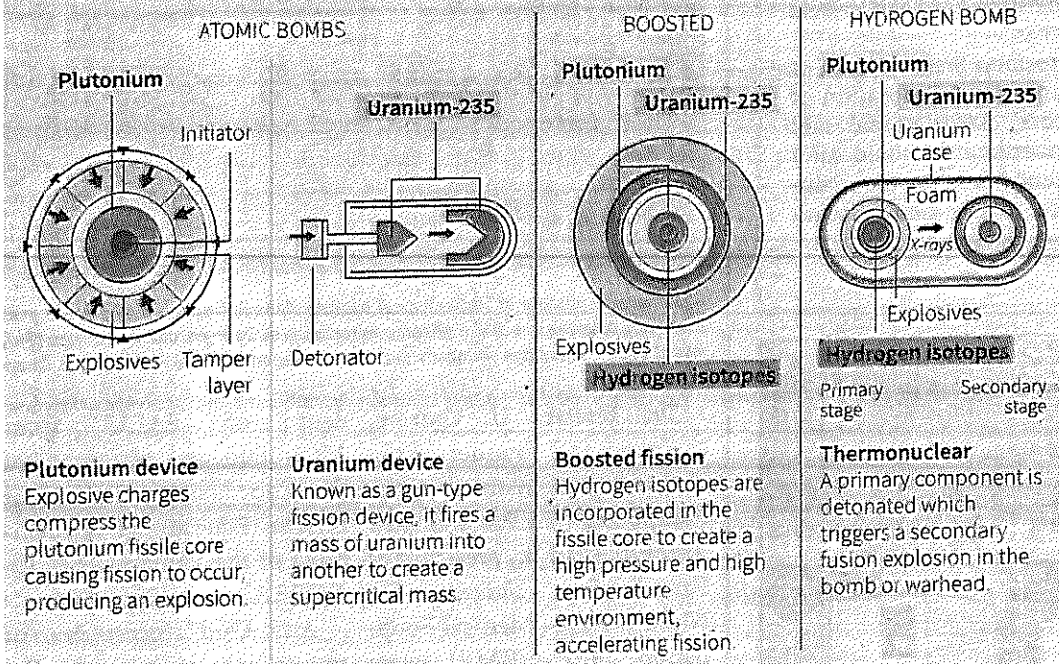
The head of the UN nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano, said the nuclear test was "an extremely regrettable act" that was "in complete disregard of the repeated demands of the international community."

French President Emmanuel Macron said the international community must react firmly to this "new provocation," and South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Seoul would push for strong steps, including new UN sanctions, to further isolate North Korea.

Japan also raised the

ROUTES TO A NUCLEAR WEAPON

North Korea claims it has developed an advanced hydrogen bomb that possesses "great destructive power". A hydrogen bomb , or thermonuclear bomb, can achieve thousands of kilotons of explosive yield - massively more powerful than North Korea's last nuclear test in September 2016 was estimated to have produced



Plutonium device
Explosive charges compress the plutonium fissile core causing fission to occur, producing an explosion.

Uranium device
Known as a gun-type fission device, it fires a mass of uranium into another to create a supercritical mass.

Boosted fission
Hydrogen isotopes are incorporated in the fissile core to create a high pressure and high temperature environment, accelerating fission.

Thermonuclear
A primary component is detonated which triggers a secondary fusion explosion in the bomb or warhead.

NOTE: Illustrations are not to scale. Models may vary.

SOURCES: Union of Concerned Scientists; Atomic Heritage Museum; Encyclopaedia Britannica

REUTERS

Staff, S.Scarr, 03/09/2017

rospect of further sanctions, aying curbs on North Korea's il trade would be on the table.

China, North Korea's sole najor ally, said it strongly con-lemned the nuclear test and irged Pyongyang to stop its wrong" actions. Washington ias repeatedly urged Beijing to lo more to rein in its neighbor.

For its part, the Philippines alled on North Korea "to re-urn to the negotiating table," aying the Association of outheast Asian Nations is ready to play a role in creating liplomatic space to effect neaningful dialogue."

Philippine Foreign Secre-ary Alan Peter Cayetano, who s in Seoul for an official visit, aid he had ordered Philippine mbassy officials to ensure the afety of some 65,000 Filipinos taying in South Korea.

Thermonuclear device?

North Korea claimed in Jan-ary last year to have tested a niniaturized H-bomb, also nown as a thermonuclear de-rice. But outside experts were keptical, suggesting it could ave been a "boosted de-rice"—an atomic bomb that ses some hydrogen isotopes o increase its explosive yield.

A US official who studies North Korea's military and poli-ics said it was too early to de-ermine if the test supported North Korea's claim that it had succeeded in developing a thermonuclear weapon, "much less one that could be mounted on an ICBM and reenter Earth's atmosphere without burning up."

The latest nuclear test comes amid heightened regional tension following Pyongyang's two tests of ICBMs in July that potentially could fly about 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles), putting many parts of the US mainland within range.

Under third-generation leader Kim, North Korea has been pursuing a nuclear device small and light enough to fit on a long-range ballistic missile, without affecting its range and making it capable of surviving reentry.

One expert said the size of Sunday's detonation, measured by the US Geological Survey at magnitude 6.3, meant it was possible it could be a hydrogen bomb test.

20 times more powerful

"The power is 10 or 20 times or even more than previous ones," said Kune Y. Suh, a nuclear engineering professor at Seoul National University. "That scale is to the level where anyone can say a hydrogen bomb test."

In the Chinese city of Yanji that lies on the border with North Korea, witnesses said they felt a tremor that lasted roughly 10 seconds, followed by an aftershock.

"I was eating brunch just over the border here in Yanji when we felt the whole building shake," Michael Spavor, director of the Paektu Cultural Exchange, which promotes business and cultural ties with North Korea.

"It lasted for about five seconds. The city air raid sirens started going off," Spavor added.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna said it had detected in North Korea an "unusual seismic event" that was larger than previous nuclear tests.

"North Korea's mission is quite clear when it comes to this latest atomic test: to develop a nuclear arsenal that can strike all of Asia and the US homeland," said Harry Kazianis, director of defense studies at the conservative Center for the National Interest in Washington.

"This test is just another step toward such a goal. None of us should be shocked by Pyongyang's latest actions," Kazianis added.

Earthquakes triggered by North Korean nuclear tests have gradually increased in magnitude since Pyongyang's first test in 2006, indicating the isolated country is steadily improving the destructive power of its nuclear technology.

Hourglass-shaped device

Hours before the test, North Korea's state news agency KCNA released pictures showing Kim Jong-un accompanied by colored, hourglass-shaped warhead during a visit to the country's nuclear weapons institute.

Kim "watched an H-bomb to be loaded into new ICBM" and "set forth tasks to be fulfilled in the research into nukes," KCNA said.

The shape, which shows a marked difference from pictures of the ball-shaped device that North Korea released in March last year, appears to indicate the appearance of a two-stage thermonuclear weapon, said Lee Choon-geun, senior research fellow at state-run Science and Technology Policy Institute.

KCNA said North Korea "recently succeeded" in making a more advanced H-bomb.

"All components of the H-bomb were homemade and all the processes ... were put on the Juche basis, thus enabling the country to produce powerful nuclear weapons as many as it wants," KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

Juche is North Korea's homegrown ideology of self-reliance that is a mix of Marxism and extreme nationalism preached by state founder Kim Il-sung, the current leader's grandfather. In accordance with Juche, the state's weapons programs are needed to counter US aggression.

Thousands of kilotons

An H-bomb can achieve thousands of kilotons of explosive yield—massively more powerful than some 10 to 15 kilotons that North Korea's last nuclear test in September last year was estimated to have produced, similar to the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have been high since last month when Pyongyang threatened to launch missiles into the sea near the strategically located US Pacific territory of Guam after Trump said North Korea would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States.

North Korea further raised regional tensions on Tuesday by launching an intermediate-range ballistic missile over Japan, drawing international condemnation.

Impoverished North Korea and the rich, democratic South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. The North regularly threatens to destroy the South and its main ally, the United States. —REPORTS FROM REUTERS AND MARLON RAMOS IN MANILA INQ

04 September 2017

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Page. 13

2 cops in soldier's death in Zambo sued

By Hector Lawas

CHARGES have been filed against two policemen who allegedly gunned down a soldier in Aurora town in Zamboanga del Sur province recently.

Sued for murder before the Zamboanga del Sur provincial prosecutor's office in Pagadian City were PO1 Michael Bullanday and PO2 Ronald Zeros.

They were tagged in the death of Army Corporal Rodillo Bartolome, who was supposed to take a break in his hometown after fighting in Marawi City and waiting for a ride to visit his family in Barangay Kanipay, Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur last August 23.

Bartolome, 33, was gunned down by Bullanday and Zeros, after he was mistaken as a gunman in Aurora town, Zamboanga del Sur.

The two cops responded to a call about the presence of a gunman in Barangay Monte Alegre around 3:45 p.m.

The policemen shot at the soldier after he allegedly drew his .45 caliber pistol.

The police later found out that Bartolome was a soldier assigned to the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion and was deployed to Marawi City.

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4 September 2017 Tribune Page: 3

On and off clashes leave 35 dead in Maguindanao

By Mario J. Mallari

Clashes between joint military forces and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have already claimed the lives of 35 individuals while at least five soldiers were wounded.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (1D), said that clashes between the joint military-MILF and the BIFF have been on and off.

Encinas said that so far five members of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion (IB) were wounded in action.

Based on intelligence reports, 15 MILF had been killed, including a leader, while the BIFF sustained 20 fatalities.

"Up to now, we have ongoing operation but the firefight is on and off," Encinas said.

Encinas said that the military and other government agencies are jointly operating with the MILF against the BIFF – which is linked to the Islamic State-inspired terrorists responsible in the dragging Marawi City siege.

Among the areas affected by the conflict are barangays Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibu, Maguindanao.

Encinas said that the military has deployed artillery and armor assets in the area to support ground troops.

The BIFF band being engaged is led by a certain Abu Toraype.

"Before the operations were launched, there were prior planning, it's really joint," Encinas said.

Last week, President Duterte said there is another brewing security problem in Central Mindanao particularly in Buldon town, amid the dragging Marawi City siege which started last May 23.

Encinas, however, maintained that the ongoing clashes in Maguindanao are not spillover of the Marawi siege.

"This is not spillover because what we are confronting there is purely BIFF, not Maute," Encinas said.

BIFF is a breakaway faction of the MILF. Founded by the late Ameril Umbra Kato, the BIFF has established links with the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah.

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4 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 9

4 soldiers die in battle with NPAs in N. Vizcaya

By **MAR T. SUPNAD**

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City — Four army soldiers were killed while another one was injured when government troops clashed with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the remote town of Kasibu in Nueva Vizcaya last Friday.

The Army headquarters reported yesterday that troops from the army's 84th Infantry Battalion (84th IB) of the 7th Infantry Division encountered an undetermined number of guerrillas in Barangay Catarawan, Kasibu.

Lieutenant Colonel Isagani Nato, spokesman of the military's Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), said four army soldiers were killed in the clash but held off on giving their identities until their respective families have been notified.

Nato said the chance encounter happened while troopers were patrolling the barangay in response to civilian reports that armed men on recruitment and extortion activities were seen roaming the area.

He said the guerrillas who engaged the troopers were from the Samahang Partido Propaganda (SPP) "Gani" of the NPA. They also suffered casualties and retreated deeper into the mountains.

Apart from the four fatally wounded soldiers, a fifth trooper was taken to the Bayombong Veterans' Hospital in this province for treatment of bullet wounds sustained in the battle, said Nato.

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04 September 2017 PULIS FILES Page. 3

Militar at NPA muling nagkasagupa sa Nueva Vizcaya

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Muling nagkaputukan ang tropa ng militar at rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa bayan ng Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.

Sinabi sa Bombo Radyo Tuguegarao ni Police Senior Insp. Norly Gamal, hepe ng PNP Kasibu, posibleng ang nakasagupa ng 84th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army kamakalawa sa Brgy. Catarawan, Kasibu na nagresulta sa pagkamatay ng apat na sundalo at pagkasugat ng isa pa ang nakaputukan ng militar sa Sitio Ambedbed, Brgy. Pau sa nasabing bayan pasado 2:00 ng hapon kahapon.

Ayon kay Gamal na nagpatuloy kasi ang inilunsad na follow-up combat operations ng 703rd Infantry Brigade laban grupo ng NPA na Sandatahang Platoon Propaganda (SPP) Gani na kumikilos sa boundary ng lalawigan ng Quirino at Nueva Vizcaya.

Samantala, narekober na mula sa kabundukan ng Brgy. Catarawan ang mga labi ng apat na sundalo na namatay sa naunang sagupaan.

Nakilala ang mga namatay na sina Staff Sergeant Dexter John Tagacay ng Tumauini, Isabela, Corporal Jayson Sabado ng Lupao, Nueva Ecija, Corporal Rusty Galan at Private First Class Abraham Lindo ng 84th Infantry Battalion na nakabase sa Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya. Habang nilalapatan ngayon ng lunas sa pagamutan ang nasugatan na si Corporal Jerby Soriano. Sa ngayon ay wala namang naiulat na casualty sa panibagong engkwentro sa Brgy. Pau sa bayan ng Kasibu.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

5 NPA rebels surrender in Sultan Kudarat

By **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat — Five suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA), including a lumad minor, surrendered to the military in Senator Ninoy Aquino town in Sultan Kudarat over the weekend.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, 33rd Infantry Battalion commander, identified those who surrendered as Ome Digan, Adot Digan, Eson Digan, Misuari Digan and a 16-year-old boy identified only as Matanggol.

Cabunoc said the surrenderers were members of the Dulangan Manobo tribal group who are residents of a hinterland village in Barangay Midtungok in Senator Ninoy Aquino town.

The former NPA rebels belonged to the NPA Guerrilla Front under a certain Commander Macmacang operating in the province of Sultan Kudarat.

The former rebels yielded a Garand, a Carbine and an M-79 grenade launcher.

They claimed that failed promises by the NPA local leadership to get back the land owned by their ancestors, which were occupied by agro-industrial companies, had prompted them to return to the fold of the law.

They said the NPA promised them to retrieve their ancestral lands once they joined the NPA, the armed-wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Cabunoc said the surrenderers will be turned over to Senator Ninoy Aquino Mayor Randy Ecija, who vowed to provide them livelihood assistance.

He urged other tribal group members who were recruited by the NPA to avail of the government's reconciliation process and return to mainstream society.

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04 September 2017

Balita

Ang Nangungunang Pahayagang Tagalog sa Bansa ₱8.00

Page. 2

4 na sundalo utas, 1 sugatan sa NPA

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City – Patay ang apat na sundalo at isa ang sugatan sa bakbakan sa pagitan ng militar at ng rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) nitong Biyernes ng hapon, Setyembre 1, sa Barangay Catarawan, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, kinumpirma kahapon ng militar.

Sa ulat na ipinarating sa opisina ni Lt. Col Isagani Nato, tagapagsalita ng Northern Luzon Command, kinilala ang mga napatay na sundalo na sina Staff Sgt. Dexter John Tagacay, Corporal Jayson Sabado, Corporal Rusty Galan at Private First Class Abraham Lindo, pawang miyembro ng 84th Infantry Battalion sa ilalim ng 7th Infantry Division, mother unit ng Philippine Army (PA) na nakabase sa Port Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Nagsasagawa ng combat patrol ang mga militar noong hapon ng Setyembre 1 nang makaengkuwentro ang hindi madeterminang bilang ng rebelled sa loob ng 30 minutong sagupaan sa Sitio Manlan Barangay Catarawan, ayon kay Nato.

Agad isinugod ang sugatang sundalo sa Bayombong Veterans Hospital sa Nueva Vizcaya.

Sinabi ni Nato na ang mga rebelled ay miyembro ng SPP "Garu" ng New People's Army na nagsasagawa ng recruitment at extortion.

Franco G. Regala

4 September 2017 INQUIRER Page: A13

TERROR FEAR

3 TURKISH NATIONALS ARRESTED

COTABATO CITY—Three Turkish nationals were held for questioning in Mangudadatu town in Maguindanao on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, head of the 33rd Infantry "Makabayan" Battalion, reminded foreigners to coordinate their travel in conflict areas to avoid causing alarm in communities.

The Turkish visitors, said Cabunoc, were apprehended for entering a village in Mangudadatu with the local government and security forces unaware of their visit.

Authorities quickly tried to locate the Turks after community leaders from the village of Paitan reported their presence, the military said.

Cabunoc said the villagers were worried the foreigners were Islamic State agents.

The Turkish visitors were apparently members of a humanitarian group distributing food to villagers for Eid al-Adha. —KARLOS MANLUPIG INQ

4 September 2017

INQUIRER

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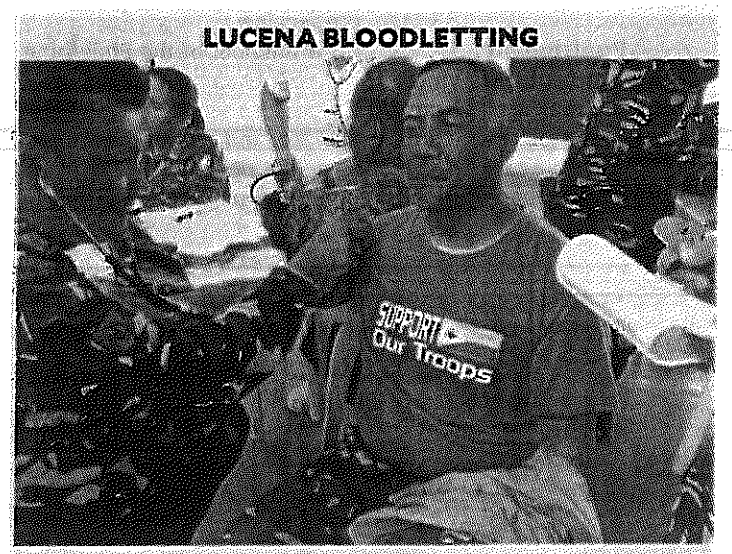
LUCENA BLOODLETTING



An Army soldier was one of at least 150 people who donated blood for wounded soldiers in Marawi City during an event hosted by the Southern Luzon Command in Lucena City.
—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4 September 2017 INQUIRER Page: A2

Du30 sees end of Marawi crisis by December

By Allan Nawal and Jeoffrey Maitem
@inquirermindanao

DAVAO CITY—The Marawi crisis should end soon so that the government can deal with other problems that could erupt into bigger troubles, President Duterte said on Saturday.

Mr. Duterte was referring to the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, whose members are becoming restive over the delay in the passage of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law in Congress.

"I have until the end of the year to contain this thing," Mr. Duterte told reporters here late on Saturday after attending the birthday celebration of Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles.

"You know, the Marawi [crisis] is ending. What's prolonging it is our effort to save the lives of everybody, including the terrorists if possible. I objected, I ruled out the bombing of mosques because destroying that could mean the destruction of what's in the soul of Muslims everywhere," he said.

Mr. Duterte said targeting the mosques could also put the lives of the hostages at risk.

The military said last week the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists holed up in Marawi were still holding about 50 hostages, but on Saturday, the President said he was not sure.

He said the terrorists could kill the hostages at government troops' first attempt to storm buildings held by the gunmen.

'We'll get Hapilon'

Mr. Duterte said he was being cautious "because at the end of the day, I take the blame for everything."

On Sunday, Malacañang promised that the government would capture Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the Islamic State-inspired terrorists holed up in Marawi.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the government believed Hapilon, leader of an Abu Sayyaf faction that joined the Maute terror group in attacking Marawi, was still alive and in the city, surrounded by government troops.

Raw information

"We treat numerous reports saying that Hapilon has left Marawi and has been seen openly in Basilan as raw information requiring further validation by the military and various security agencies of [the] government," he said in a statement.

"Granting Isnilon Hapilon's whereabouts in Basilan is true, it would mean that he chose to abandon his men as the battle of Marawi nears its final stretch," Abella said.

But recent military assessment indicated that Hapilon, who has sworn allegiance to the Islamic State jihadist group in the Middle East, is "still very much in Marawi," he added. —WITH A REPORT FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA IN MANILA INQ

What's prolonging it is our effort to save the lives of everybody, including the terrorists if possible

Rodrigo Duterte
President

4 September 2017 INQUIRER Page: A11

TROOPS IN MARAWI GET LIFE-SAVING DONATION

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—Money, medicines, clothes and food had been donated for government soldiers fighting terror in Marawi City but the donation made by at least 150 people here could be the most personal—their blood.

The donors waited for their turn to give blood at a covered court in the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) headquarters in a bloodletting event dubbed "Dugo para sa Kapayapaan (Blood for Peace)" organized by Solcom.

Capt. Alvin Mark Bonayao, Solcom spokesperson, said at least 64,350 cubic centimeters of blood (enough to fill 64 Coke Litro bottles) had been collected during the daylong event from civilians, soldiers, policemen and reservists.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., Solcom commander, in a statement said that the blood donation campaign "is our way of supporting our troops and helping the victims of the Marawi crisis."

The campaign to collect blood would continue, Madrigal said, adding that more volunteers were needed to donate blood for soldiers wounded in the Marawi war.

"Let us donate blood to help and save lives," Madrigal said.

Bonayao said the bloodletting event at the Solcom headquarters was part of the blood donation component of "National Peace Consciousness Month."

He said the military, including the reservist force, was observing National Peace Consciousness Month in partnership with the Philippine National Police's Peace and Development Office and the group Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay.

The military has suffered 136 casualties so far in the war in Marawi. At least 1,000 soldiers had been wounded in the fighting that had gone past 100 days and which President Duterte said he wanted to end soon. INQ

4 September 2017

THE MANILA STAR

'Marawi crisis a stalemate'

DAVAO CITY – Three months after Maute terrorists laid siege to Marawi, the crisis in the city has reached a "stalemate," according to President Duterte.

"It is a stalemate now because of my asking the military to slow down," Duterte, likening the situation to a chess game, said at the birthday party of Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles late Saturday.

Duterte said the stalemate was brought about by his advice to the Armed Forces to go slow in the assault on the terrorists who are holding several civilian hostages.

The President said that

Turn to Page 16

no matter how easy it would seem to bomb the mosques in the city to finally end the crisis, still his sensitivities to the Muslim community prevailed upon him never to do it.

"I told the top (military) echelons, take it easy, we cannot destroy the mosque, because that will forever... spawn hatred from the Muslim community," he said.

Duterte said he finally gave the military the discretion on how to end the fighting in Marawi City.

Duterte said his decision allowing the military to attack is a heavy responsibility he has to bear.

He said he is conscious of the feedback from the populace asking what took the military operation in Marawi too long so that it brought about more than 200 people dead, including government forces, as it also displaced more than 100,000 people.

The siege in Marawi began on May 23 when the Maute group, named after brothers Omar and Abdullah, captured parts of the city in an alleged bid to establish an Islamic State caliphate in Mindanao.

The clashes erupted after government troops attempted to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in the city. Hapilon, known as IS's anointed leader in Southeast Asia, evaded arrest and has reportedly left the war-torn city.

Malacañang said yesterday it is just "a matter of time" that Hapilon will be captured.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the information that Hapilon was seen in Basilan, hundreds of kilometers from Marawi, remains unverified.

"We treat numerous reports saying that Isnilon Hapilon has left Marawi and has been seen openly in Basilan as raw information requiring further validation by the military and various security agencies of government," Abella said.

"However, recent military assessments indicate that he is still very much in Marawi. Our forces are hot on their heels and it will only be a matter of time before we get him," he added.

If the reports about Hapilon's presence in Basilan were true, he had abandoned his men as the battle of Marawi nears its final stretch, Abella said.

"We will get Isnilon Hapilon," the presidential spokesman stressed.

A total of 614 terrorists, 45 civilians and 133 government troopers have been killed since fighting broke out last May 23.

Military officials said they are preparing their "final assault" against the Maute group but did not put a deadline for their operations. – **Edith Regalado, Alexis Romero**

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4 September 2017

PHILIPPINE STAR

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Search launched vs Mautes in Maguindanao

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – Authorities searched the forest at the border of Buldon town and Mount Cararao in this province on Saturday to look for Maute terrorists believed to be hiding in the area.

The municipal police launched the search after President Duterte announced in Davao City the possible spread of the Marawi conflict in Buldon.

Senior police and Army officials based in the province said they were surprised by Duterte's announcement.

They urged the Malaysian-led international monitoring team and the joint ceasefire committee of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to help them prove that no terrorists are hiding in the municipality.

The monitoring team has been helping oversee the enforcement of an interim ceasefire accord between the government and MILF since 2004.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu told journalists yesterday that he sought the help of the local Islamic religious sector to help prove to Duterte that there are no Islamic State-inspired militants in the area.

Buldon Mayor Abolais Manalao is in full control of the municipality, Mangudadatu said.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division on Saturday announced in Cotabato City that there is no confirmed presence of any IS-inspired group in Buldon.

4 September 2017 The Manila Times Page: A2

Add'l budget needed for Marawi – DoF

BY MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO

THE Department of Finance (DoF) confirmed the need for a supplemental budget to rebuild Marawi City but no exact amount was cited.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd said economic managers and lawmakers discussed the issue during the Legislative Executive Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday last week.

"The Congress said they will look at it but we did not have the exact figures, and I and [Budget] secretary [Benjamin] Diokno spoke to [Defense] Secretary [Delfin] Lorenzana to make sure that he comes up with the estimates as soon as possible," he told reporters in an interview over the weekend.

Some lawmakers had expressed their intention to approve a supplemental budget following the extension of martial law in Mindanao until December.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in May after the Maute Group seized parts of Marawi.

Earlier, the Finance department directed the Bureau of the Treasury to study the possible issuance of P30 billion-worth of debt securities to help fund the massive reconstruction effort for Marawi.

The agency also said that the P30-billion windfall from the Mighty Corp.-Japan Tobacco International (JTI) (Philippines) Inc. buyout deal can also be used for the reconstruction of Marawi and to strengthen the Armed Forces' capability to fight terrorists.

"The plan really is to bulldoze the area that was affected because the buildings there most likely are already compromised so we don't want people building over that and not knowing that the reinforcing bars are still strong," Dominguez said.

"We might as well just rebuild everything. But then the community will be consulted about it," he added.

Dominguez said government is expecting $3-million worth of equipment from China such as bulldozers and ditch diggers.

State troopers continue to fight Maute members in Marawi amid speculation that one of the leaders of the group, Isnilon Hapilon, escaped.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said the military will validate the report.

"We believe he is still there but we are still validating," Padilla said in a text message on Sunday.

WITH DEMPSEY REYES

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4 September 2017 The Manila Times Page: A7

Marawi evacuees accept beef donation of Turkish foundation

COTABATO CITY: The Marawi evacuees on Saturday accepted a donation of beef from a Turkish foundation. This after they turned down the Department of Agriculture's (DA) offer of thousands of dressed chicken from Pampanga where a bird flu outbreak was declared last month.

The Integrated Center for Alternative Development (ICAD) donated live cows which were slaughtered according to Halal procedures then the beef was distributed to those at the Saguiaran evacuation centers in Lanao del Sur during the second day of the Eid'l Adha celebration.

The evacuees said that aside from their fear of being infected with the avian flu virus, they explained they turned down the DA's offer of the dressed chicken from Pampanga because it is against the "maratabat" or pride and honor of a Maranao to receive meat of a suspicious quality.

They said they are being treated as second class citizens and are questioning why they were not offered the dressed chicken during the early days of the Marawi siege when they badly needed food.

"The chicken were not slaughtered in accordance with the procedure in Islam where chicken and cattle are subject to halal processing before it is allowed to be consumed by Muslims," they added.

Soldiers of the Western Mindanao Command under the Joint Task Group Tabang (JTGT) led by Col. Thomas Sedano arrived early at the evacuation center to help in the ritual slaughter of about 15 cows donated by ICAD which beef was later distributed to the evacuees.

The cows were slaughtered or went through a "sumbali," a Maranao a term for ceremonial slaughtering done by an Imam to make sure that the process is halal; in Tausug the term is sumbaih.

Halal refers to what is permissible or lawful in traditional Islamic Law. It is frequently applied to food and drinks, including animals that are to be butchered for consumption.

A program for the second day celebration for Eid'l Adha was held in the morning with Kim Edres, director of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, with Saguiaran Mayor Macmod Muti and police and military officials.

The ICAD Foundation has donated a total of 53 live cows to the internally displaced families at various evacuation centers in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao.

In Metro Manila, ICAD and another Filipino-Turkish NGO, the Pacific Dialogue Foundation (PDF) also conducted their annual distribution of beef at the ICAD office in Greenhills, San Juan City.

Cihanger Arslan, PDF president said thousands of families in Metro Manila received at least two kilos of beef each.

Arslan said both ICAD and PDF are doing this annually during the Eid'l Adha celebrations as an act of charity and kindness for those in need and the less privileged since 1997.

A non-stock and non-profit foundations organized by Filipinos and Turkish, ICAD and PDF are with the objective of promoting closer ties between the Philippines and Turkey and fostering religious tolerance and multi-cultural exchange.

The ICAD runs secular schools in Metro Manila and Zamboanga City that follow the Cambridge diploma program.

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4 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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We will get Hapilon – Palace

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

It is only a matter of time before government forces capture Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who is believed to have remained in the ittle area in Marawi City, Malacañang id Sunday.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto bella said there were reports that apilon might have escaped the battle te, but military information indicated herwise.

"We will get Isnilon Hapilon," Abella iid in a statement about the wanted terrorist.

"Recent military assessments indicate that he is still very much in Marawi. Our forces are hot on their heels and it will only be a matter of time before we get him," Abella said.

Abella said reports claiming Hapilon was spotted in Basilan were "raw information" that must still be further validated by the military and various government security agencies.

"Granting Isnilon Hapilon's whereabouts in Basilan is true, it would mean that he chose to abandon his men as the battle of Marawi nears its final stretch," he added.

Hapilon is among the terrorists wanted by the government following his group's involvement in the violent siege on Marawi City last May. A bungled government attempt to arrest Hapilon triggered the rampage of the Islamic State-linked militants who overran parts of the city.

The Marawi conflict has left more than 600 terrorists killed so far.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte recently said he expects the conflict to be over soon, promising to rebuild the war-torn city into a much better community.

04 September 2017 POLICE FILES Page. 2

Isnilon Hapilon, hindi pa nakakalabas ng Marawi - Malakanyang

KINUMPIRMA kahapon ng Malakanyang na nasa loob pa ng Marawi City ang Abu Sayyaf leader na si Isnilon Hapilon.

Ito ay sa kabila ng mga lumabas na ulat na namataan ang terorista sa Basilan.

Ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella, lumabas sa military assessments na hindi pa nakakalabas ng Marawi si Hapilon.

Dahil dito, gagawin aniya ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang lahat para madakip si Hapilon sa lalong madaling panahon.

Sinabi ni Abella na kailangan pang i-validate ang ulat na wala na sa Marawi at nasa Basilan na si Hapilon.

Sa ngayon aniya ay itinuturing pa ng gobyerno ang naturang ulat bilang "raw information".

Sakali man aniya na totoo ang balita na nasa Basilan na si Hapilon, nangangahulugan lamang ito na inabandona na ng lider ang kanyang mga tauhan na nakikipagbakbakan sa Marawi.

Napabalitang tinutulungan ni Hapilon at ng kanyang mga tauhan mula sa Abu Sayyaf group ang teroristang Maute sa pakikipagsagupa sa tropa ng pamahalaan sa Marawi.

(Vanz Fernandez)

04 September 2017

Page. 3

3 leaders set talks on fight against terrorism

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is set to meet his counterparts in Indonesia and Malaysia to discuss closer cooperation on battling terrorism in the region.

The President said in an interview in Davao City that he is arranging the meeting as he indicated his willingness to open the country's borders to Indonesian and Malaysian security forces pursuing terrorists.

No timetable however was mentioned for the meeting.

"I don't know how fast but I have to talk to President Widodo. We have agreed that we will talk, the three of us, si [PM] Najib sa Malaysia," Duterte said.

"In all probability, it will be a joint, parang task force. And I will open my borders to the Malaysian authorities and Indonesian authorities and I will be given an access," the President added.

"Kung may lunahabol kami, tapos sabihin na wala nang panahon, tirahin mo nalang diyan. Even if it's a Filipino, tirahin mo na. Or Indonesian dito, banatan mo."

Duterte said that as the Islamic State (ISIS) retreats from Syria and Iraq, its fighters may move to other countries.

"The ISIS is being cornered in the coastal towns of Syria and... natutulak na sila Syria. Once they lose base, wala na silang mapuntahan, papatayin talaga sila. Alam mo na Arabo, they will be executed, sisibat na yan. And then because they have access to some countries, bigla nalang sisipot kagaya nung sa Marawi," Duterte said.

The conflict in Marawi has left about 800 people dead.

The government said the battle for full control of the city is in its "final stages" as firefighting has been confined within a 500x500 square-meter-area.

Abu Sayyaf leader

Abu Sayyaf top leader Isnilon Hapilon is still in Marawi.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said military assessments show that Hapilon is still in the war-torn city as the battle for Marawi enters its final stretch.

"Recent military assessments indicate that he is still very much in Marawi. Our forces are hot on their heels and it will only be a matter of time before we get him," he said.

Abella said reports that Hapilon has already fled to Basilan have yet to be validated, adding that the government treats these reports as "raw information."

"We treat numerous reports saying that Isnilon Hapilon has left Marawi and has been seen openly in Basilan as raw information requiring further validation," he said.

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04 September 2017

UNA SA BALITA

Pahina. 6

Hapilon, nasa Marawi pa rin

Kumbinsido ang Malacañang na nasa Marawi City pa rin ang lider ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na si Isnilon Hapilon taliwas sa mga naunang report na naispatan ito sa Basilan.

"Recent military assessments indicate that he is still very much in Marawi. Our forces are hot on their heels and it will only be a matter of time before we get him," ani Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella.

Sa kabila nito, ipinaberipika na rin nila ang report na naispatan si Hapilon sa Basilan.

"We treat numerous reports saying that Isnilon Hapilon has left Marawi and has been seen openly in Basilan as raw information requiring further validation," ayon sa tagapagsalita ng Palasyo.

"Granting Isnilon Hapilon's whereabouts in Basilan is true, it would mean that he chose to abandon his men as the battle of Marawi nears its final stretch," katuwiran ni Abella.

Matatandaan na ang grupo ni Hapilon ay tumulong sa teroristang Maute Group sa pagsalakay sa Marawi City noong Mayo 22 sa hangarin na maitayo ang Islamic State sa nasabing siyudad sa Mindanao.

Ngunit ang hakbang na ito ay nagresulta sa pagkamatay ng 620 terorista sa pagtatapos ng buwan ng Agosto. Mayroon namang 136 sundalo at 45 sibilyan ang namatay sa bakbakan. **(Boyet Jadulco)**

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09 September 2017

Tempo

'We'll get Hapilon'

By GENALYN KABILING

It is only a matter of time before government forces capture Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, believed to have remained in the battle area in Marawi City, Malacañang said Sunday.

Presidential spoeskman Ernesto Abella said there were reports that Hapilon might have escaped the battle but military information indicated otherwise.

"We will get Isnilon Hapilon," Abella said in a statement about the wanted terrorist.

"Recent military assessments indicate that he is still very much in Marawi. Our forces are hot on their heels and it will only be a matter of time before we get him," Abella said.

Abella said reports claiming Hapilon was spotted in Basilan were "raw information" that must still be further validated by the military and various government security agencies.

"Granting Isnilon Hapilon's whereabouts in Basilan is true, it would mean that he chose to abandon his men as the battle of Marawi nears its final stretch," he added.

Hapilon is among the terrorists wanted by the government following his group's involvement in the violent siege on Marawi City last May. A bungled government attempt to arrest Hapilon triggered the rampage of the Islamic State-linked militants who overran parts of the city.

The Marawi conflict has left more than 600 terrorists killed so far.

President Duterte recently said he expects the conflict to be over soon, promising to rebuild the war-torn city into a much better community.

04 September 2017

Remate

Pahina. 2

Kahit saan pa magtago: Isnilon Hapilon sisiluin pa rin -Abella

WE will get Isnilon Hapilon.

Ito ang tiniyak at binigyangdiin ni Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella bilang tugon sa ulat na tumakas na si Hapilon mula sa Marawi at lantad na nakikita na ngayon sa Basilan.

Ani Usec. Abella, kahit pa hilaw ang impormasyong ito ay kailangan pa rin na maging handa ang mga tropa ng pamahalaan para tugisin si Hapilon.

Sa kabila naman umano ng paghahanda, kinakailangan pa rin na kunin nila ang balidasyon ng mga sundalo at ilang security agency ng pamahalaan.

Sinabi pa ni Usec. Abella na sakali at totoo nga na nilisan na ni Hapilon ang Marawi ay malinaw lang na mas pinili nito na abandonahin ang kanyang mga tauhan habang papalapit na sa final stretch ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at Maute group.

Samantala, nakasaad naman sa kamakailan lamang na military assessments na nasa Marawi si Hapilon.

Napaulat na nakita si Hapilon sa Ground Zero kung saan ay kasama nito ang ilang grupo mula Basilan.

Naniniwala naman si AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na buhay pa ang magkapatid na sina Abdullah at Omar at kasama si Isnilon Hapilon kahit sa mga ulat na patay na ang mga ito, dahil kailangan pa rin nila ng matibay na ebidensya at umaasa na lang na sa ikinasang last push sa pagbawi ng Marawi, magtatagumpay ang pamahalaan laban sa mga local terrorist.

Samantala, sinabi ni Abella na welcome news para sa Malakanyang ang panukala ni Senator Ralph Recto na itaas sa P1 milyon ang ibibigay na financial aid para sa mga sundalo at pulis na permanenteng nabaldado dahil sa pagtugon sa kanilang tungkulin gaya ng giyera at police operations. **KRIS JOSE**

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04 September 2017

UNA SA BALITA

Child warriors, bihag pipiliting ma-rescue sa Marawi

Sinisikap ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na mailigtas ang mga batang Maranao na napamiwala at na-recruit ng teroristang Maute Group sa Marawi City.

Tiniyak din ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na bukod sa mga batang Maranao, sinisikap din nilang mailigtas ang mga bihag na patuloy na ginagawang human shield ng Maute Group sa pag-atake ng mga sundalo.

"Nagdurugo din po ang aming mga puso kapag nalalaman namin na may mga ganyan, kasi po talagang gumagamit sila ng mga bata. Noong araw po ay hindi sila gumagamit ng mga bata pero ngayon po dahil desperado na sila kaya pati mga bata ay maaaring ilabas na rin nila para sa kanilang frontline kaya pinipilit namin na makuha sila at ma-rescue," ani Padilla.

Pero, sinabi ni Padilla na kapag nakikita nila na nasa peligro ang mga sundalo ay wala na silang magagawa kundi ang pigilan ang mga kalaban na makakilos pa laban sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan. **(Betchai Julian)**

09 September 2017

Tempo

Page. 12

Bishop: Secure Maute hostages

Marawi Bishop Edwin Dela Peña urged the government yesterday to prioritize the safety of the hostages in its looming "final assault" against Islamic state-inspired Maute group in Marawi City.

In an interview in Church-run Radyo Veritas, Dela Peña said the military must avoid any actions, which will endanger the lives of the Maute's remaining hostages.

"An indiscriminate assault (against Maute)...that is not acceptable for me since some of the hostage may become collateral damage," Dela Peña said.

He called on other groups to also join protest against such attacks.

"I call on all Christians to come out with their similar opposition to this plan (of the military)," said Dela Peña. **(Samuel Medenilla)**

04 September 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 1

No spillover of Marawi conflict to Maguindanao, says AFP

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military yesterday sought to downplay President Duterte's pronouncement about a possible spillover to Maguindanao of the dragging armed conflict in Marawi City.

The conflict between government forces and the Maute Group started on May 23 and has so far led to the death of 620 Maute members, 136 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians.

On Friday, President Duterte said he has considered lifting martial law which he imposed in the entire Mindanao because of the Marawi siege, but changed his mind because it appeared there is a spillover of the conflict to Buldon town in Maguindanao. Marawi is the capital of Lanao del Sur which is adjacent to Maguindanao.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said what the military is currently confronting in Maguindanao are members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

He said the military, in collabora-

04 September 2017

BULGAR

Pahina. 2

₱1 MILYON SA BAWAT SUGATANG SUNDALO AT PULIS SA GIYERA SA MARAWI

SUPORTADO ng Malacañang ang mungkahi ni Senador Ralph Recto na taasan ng isang milyong piso ang tulong-pinansiyal na ibinibigay sa mga sundalo at pulis na nasugatan sa pakikipagbakbakan sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella, marapat lamang na kilalanin ang katapangan at kabayanihan ng mga sundalo at pulis para ipagtanggol ang bansa laban sa mga nais manakop at maghasik ng karahasan tulad ng ginawa sa Marawi City.

Umaasa ang Malacañang na susuportahan din ng mga mambabatas sa Kongreso ang panukala ni Senador Recto dahil walang katumbas na halaga ang ipinakikitang katapangan at malasakit ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan para ipagtanggol ang bansa laban sa mga terorista at iba pang rebeldeng grupo.

Batay sa mungkahi ng senador, nais nitong gawing isang milyong piso mula sa P250,000 ang tulong-pinansiyal na ibinibigay ng gobyerno sa mga nasugatang sundalo, bukod pa sa habambuhay na pag-asiste sa mga ito lalo na ang mga may multiple injuries tulad ng mga naputulan ng paa, kamay o nabulag sa bakbakan.

(Aileen Taliping)

4 September 2017

Manila Standard

Page: A1

2 Sayyaf men nabbed in KL for terror links

By Francisco Tuyay

TWO Filipino terrorists who were involved in a series of kidnappings in Malaysia were recently arrested by Malaysian authorities, a military official said Sunday.

The two terrorists, one of whom was the trusted lieutenant of Basilan Abu Sayyaf chieftain Furuji Indama, were in the company of six wanted Malaysian nationals when they were arrested for their alleged involvement in terrorist activities in Malaysia.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office said the two Filipinos were arrested by the Royal Malaysian Police in Taman Desa Baiduri, Cheras in Kuala Lumpur. They were identified as Hajar Abdul Mubin, alias Mheraiz and Abrahan Bin Ebong.

Mubin is the right-hand man of Abu Sayyaf Group sub-leader

Next page

2 Sayyaf...

From A1

Furuji Indama while the affiliation of the other Filipino terrorist is still being ascertained by Malaysian authorities.

"The arrest and detention of these individuals is a significant development in the government's security cooperation with Malaysia and other neighboring countries in Asia to curb terrorism including attempts to recruit new members or entice individuals to support terrorism or violent extremism," Arevalo said.

The Palace, meanwhile, said it would soon get Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, reportedly the emir of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia.

"We will get Isnilon Hapilon," Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

Abella's statement came amid reports that Hapilon had been seen in Basilan, hundreds of kilometers away from the war-torn Marawi City.

"We treat numerous reports saying that Isnilon Hapilon has left Marawi and has been seen openly in Basilan as raw information requiring further validation by the military and various security agencies of government," Abella said.

"Granting [the report on] Isnilon Hapilon's whereabouts in Basilan is true, it would mean that he chose to abandon his men as the battle of Marawi nears its final stretch," he added.

But recent military assessments indicate that Hapilon is still in Marawi, he said.

The military's operation against Hapilon last May sparked the Maute group's attack in Marawi City, which prompted President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Early in August, the military said Hapilon and Maute brothers Omar and Abdullah were still in Marawi City.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo had said that aside from freeing Marawi City from local terrorists, the troops' main objective is to neutralize Hapilon and the Maute brothers.

Fighting in Marawi City between the local terrorists and government troops has stretched to more than 100 days.

The initial 60-day martial law implementation in Mindanao had been extended until December. **With Bill Casas**

4 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2 Pinoys among 8 terror suspects nabbed in KL

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed yesterday the arrest of six Malaysian nationals and two Filipinos by the Royal Malaysian Police in Taman Desa Baiduri, Cheras in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last August 30.

Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office ▶6

chief said military sources revealed that the group was collared for their alleged involvement in and linkages to terrorist activities in the Philippines.

Arevalo said that according to the report, one of the arrested Filipinos was identified as Hajar Abdul Mubin alias Mheraiz.

Investigation revealed that Mubin is the right-man of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-leader Furuji Indama who is based in Basilan.

"The affiliation of the other Filipino, Abraham Bin Ebong, is still being ascertained," Arevalo said.

"The group is under custody at an undisclosed detention facility in the capital and currently for committing security offenses and is now facing charges for violating Malaysian statues," he added.

Arevalo said the arrest and detention of these individuals is a significant development in the government's security cooperation with Malaysia and other neighboring countries in Asia to curb terrorism including attempts to recruit new members or entice individuals to support terrorism or violent extremism.

04 September 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 7

6 Malaysians, 2 Pinoy na konektado sa Sayyaf arestado

Hawak na ng mga otoridad ang anim na Malaysian national at dalawang Pilipino na hinihinalang konektado sa teroristang Abu Sayaf Group matapos silang maaresto ng Malaysian police sa Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Base sa inilabas na impormasyon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office Chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, natanggap lamang nila ang kumpirmasyon mula sa kanilang counterpart sa naturang bansa kung saan kinukumpirma nila na nahuli na ang walong indibidwal sa Taman de Baiduri, Cheras sa Kuala Lumpur noong nakalipas na buwan.

Ang mga suspek ay naaresto base sa impormasyong konektado sa pagkilos ng mga teroristang grupo, kasabay ng pagdakip sa isa sa walo na si Hajat Abdul Mubin alyas Mheraiz.

Base umano sa imbestigasyon, ito ang kanang kamay ni Abu Sayaf sub leader Furuji Indawa na nakabase sa Basilan.

Patuloy naman inaalam ang kuneksyon ng isa pang Pinoy na si Abraham Bin Ebong.

Habang nasa kustodiya na ng mga otoridad ang walo sa hindi binanggit na detention facility at nakatakdang sampahan ng kaso sa Malaysia. *(Gemma Garcia)*

04 September 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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2 Pinoys nabbed in Malaysia for suspected terror links

BY VICTOR REYES

TWO Filipinos have been arrested in Malaysia for alleged involvement in terrorist activities there, the Armed Forces said yesterday.

One of them, Hajar Abdul Mubin alias Mheraiz, was identified as a right-hand man of Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader Furuji Indama. The military is still verifying the group affiliation of the second suspect, Abraham bin Ebong, said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office.

Arevalo said the two Filipinos were arrested along with six Malaysians by the Royal Malaysian Police last August 30 in Taman Desa Baiduri, Cheras in Kuala Lumpur.

"The group was collared for alleged involvement in and links to terrorist activities in that country (Malaysia)," Arevalo said.

Arevalo could not immediately say if the two Filipinos are being blamed for recent kidnappings, perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf Group, in the waters of Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

"That is what we are trying to ascertain but definitely, the allegation against them is their possible involvement in terrorist activities," he said.

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COMMAND TURNOVER

SALAMAT IS NEW NOLCOM CHIEF

President Duterte has appointed Marine Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat to lead the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), replacing Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo, who retires this week.

"[Salamat] will continue the advocacy of the previous commander of Nolcom, who is also a Marine, which is to secure our interest in [Philippine] Rise and protect our borders, secure and protect our interests," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the military.

Tanalgo retires on Tuesday, when he turns 56 years old, the mandatory retirement age for the military and the police.

A retirement parade for Tanalgo will be held on the same day at Bonifacio Naval Station, headquarters of the Marines, in Taguig City.

Padilla said Tanalgo would turn over the post to Salamat on Monday at Nolcom headquarters in Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino in Tarlac.

Salamat is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985.

He is a fellow of the Center for Defense and Strategic Studies of the Australian Defense College, "which equips its students with the competency to operate at the strategic level," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs chief.

Salamat also has a master's degree from Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. —NIKKO DIZON INQ

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Navy gets US protective gear

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — Officials from the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) has turned-over 1,000 M40 field protective masks and C2 filter canisters to the Philippine Navy (PN) through the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) recently.

The Navy requested these gas masks in order to better prepare their sailors and marines to respond to chemical threats as the fighting continues in Mindanao, a US Embassy statement said.

The transfer was part of a series of ongoing transfers from the US military to multiple branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through both MLSA and the security assistance program. (Freddie G. Lazaro)

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Not yet

The immediate dismissal of rebellion complaints against 59 men arrested in Marawi and suspected of being terrorists and the subsequent order for their release were incongruent with the military rule in force in Mindanao but are strong arguments against alleged Rody's misuse of martial law.

Rody's critics are perennially frustrated by his consistently high public approval shown by surveys despite the imposition of military rule that the yellow had insisted since the campaign that he is predisposed to hand down once he is in power.

Last May 23, Rody did not waste time in declaring martial law after pro-Islamic State (IS) militants occupied Marawi City, which for more than three months now remains a battleground.

Martial law was supposed to lapse last July 22 based on a 60-day limit under the Constitution but Congress granted Rody's request for an extension until the end of this year.

The suspected militants were stopped by police and army troops at two checkpoints during the Marawi City siege.

Senior Government prosecutor Peter Ong said the complaints filed by the military against the suspects were dismissed because of a lack of strong evidence, and authorities were ordered to free all the men.

The findings of the prosecutors stated that "respondents were not committing the crime of rebellion or any crime at the time of their arrests.

"Suspicion alone is not sufficient to arrest, detain, charge and indict respondents," the prosecutors said.

Those arrested said they were recruited by a man who promised to bring them to a rebel camp for combat training and then help them be integrated into the military and police under a peace deal with the government.

The freed men would even be flown back to Mindanao on an air force plane.

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The situation in Marawi City remains a challenge for Rody and the military option appears to weigh heavily on him based on the statements he made.

Rody may have weighed the possibility of lifting martial law in time for Friday's Eid al adha, the Muslim sacrifice feast as he said that he was held back by reports of a possible spillover in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

He identified the town of Buldon that needs to be watched for IS infiltration during Rody's meeting with members of the Eastern Mindanao Command during their founding anniversary celebration in Davao City.

Buldon is a mere 130 kilometers away from Marawi City.

Rody had said that it would be up to security officials to decide on the lifting of martial law and that he would merely act on their recommendation.

"Let us see. If it is to the interest of the country that I will lift it, I will lift it. But if not, then we'll just have to continue with the martial law," he said.

The military said that the battle for Marawi City is in its final stages despite the IS propaganda about the city soon turning into a terror caliphate.

Acting on the propaganda, Islamists from Mosul, Chechnya, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Afghanistan and various parts of Africa have descended in large numbers in Marawi City to make their contribution to the goal of establishing an IS chapter in South East Asia.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman, however said fighting is expected to intensify during the "final push."

The IS which is heavily losing ground in the Middle East due to the superior strength of the coalition forces, backed by the US, it seeks to establish a new stronghold for the entire Southeast Asia which has a dominant Muslim population.

The IS threat is too real and the eagerness of Filipinos to return to normalcy, which is obviously shared by Rody, will just have to wait.

04 September 2017

BULGAR

Pahina. 4

₱1 milyong tulong sa mga sundalo, dapat lang

SABI nila, hindi raw madali ang maging sundalo at magkaroon ng mahal sa buhay na sundalo.

Nariyan kasi palagi ang pag-aalala na baka mapaano sila lalo na kapag nagkakaroon sila ng operasyon dahil ang mga sundalo, isang paa palagi ang nakabaon na sa hukay.

Bagama't, karangalan ang mamatay at makipaglaban para sa bayan at kasama sa kanilang tungkulin at trabaho ang masugatan sa pakikidigma, hindi naman puwedeng pabayaan natin sila matapos nila tayong pagserbisyuhan.

Kaya tulad ng pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), ikinatutuwa rin natin ang panukala ng isang solon na itaas na sa P1 milyon ang ibibigay na financial aid sa mga sundalong nasugatan sa giyera.

Malamang na sabihin ng ilan na masyadong malaki ang halagang ito ngunit, sa tingin natin ay tama lang ito lalo na at ang mga sundalong sugatan ay may pamilya ring umaasa at isa pa, malaking tulong ito upang makapagpagamot nang maayos ang mga nasugatang sundalo.

At ang panukala ay talaga naman daw napapanahon at kung tutuusin ay malaking tulong para sa mga disabled na sundalo lalo na at hindi naman maipagkakaila na marami sa mga nasugatang sundalo sa Marawi operation ang nangangailangan ng tulong.

Sa totoo lang, walang masamang tugunan natin ang pangangailangan ng ating mga sundalo kaya ang anumang programa na para sa ikabubuti nila ay hinahangad din natin. Sana lang, sakaling makalusot nga ang panukala, ang pondong ilalaan dito ay mapunta talaga sa kanila at hindi sa mga mapagsamantala.

www.pna.gov.ph

PAF looking for P192.6-M worth of chopper parts

By Priam Nepomuceno

The Philippine Air Force (PAF), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is now looking for suppliers of PHP192,693,000 worth of spare parts needed for the maintenance of its six remaining W-3A "Sokol" helicopters.

Pre-bid conference is scheduled on Sept. 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Submission and bid opening is 9 a.m. of Sept. 19 at PAF, BAC chair Brig. Gen. Nicolas C. Parilla, announced in a bid bulletin posted at the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System.

The PAF acquired eight units of the "Sokol" from Polish manufacturer PZL-Swidnik and British-Italian firm Augusta Westland for PHP2.8 billion in 2012. Two have been decommissioned due to accidents. ***(PNA)***