

Ampatuan brothers, 20 others guilty in Maguindanao massacre

MANILA -- The elusive search for justice of the families of the 57 individuals, including 32 journalists, killed in the Maguindanao massacre has come to a conclusion on Thursday.

Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 221 found eight members of the Ampatuan clan and 20 others guilty for 57 counts of murder and meted them with the penalty of reclusion perpetua (up to 40 years imprisonment) without parole.

Aside from former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Governor Zaldy Ampatuan, likewise found guilty as principal and sentenced to reclusion perpetua without parole were his brothers Datu Andal "Unsay" Ampatuan Jr., Datu Anwar Sajid "Datu Ulo" Ampatuan, Datu Anwar "Datu Ipi" Ampatuan Jr., Insp. Saudi Mokaamad, PO1 Jonathan Engid, Abedin Alamada, Talembo "Tammy" Masukat, Theng P. Sali, Manny Ampatuan, Nasser Esmael, C/Insp. Sukarno Dicap, Supt. Abusama Mundas Magu-

id, and Supt. Bahnarin Kamaong.

Also found guilty were Datu Anwar Ampatuan Sr., Tato Tampogao, Mohades Ampatuan, Mohamad T. Datumanong, Misuari Ampatuan, Taya Bangkulat, Salik Bangkulat, Thong Guiamano, Sonny K. Pindi, Armando Ambalga, Kudza Masukat Uguia, Edres Kasan, Zacaria P. Akil, and Samaon Andatuan.

Meanwhile, those sentenced to suffer the indeterminate penalty of imprisonment of six to 10 years for being accessories to the crime are P/Insp. Michael Joy Macaraeg, PO3 Felix Eñate, PO3 Abibudin Abdulgani, PO3 Rasid Anton, PO2 Hamad Nana, PO2 Saudi Pasutan, PO2 Saudiar Ulah, PO1 Esprillieto Lejarso, PO1 Narkuok Mascud, PO1 Pia Kamidon, PO1 Esmael Guialal, PO1 Arnulfo Soriano, PO1 Herich Amaba, P/Insp. Abdulgapor Abad and Bong Andat.

Fifty-seven of those acquitted include several members of the Ampatuan clan namely as Shariff Saydona,

Mustapha, Maguindanao mayor or Datu Sajid Islam Ampatuan (brother of Zaldy and Andal), Datu Akmad Ampatuan, Jonathan Ampatuan, Jimmy Ampatuan along with the so-called members of the Labayan group identified as SPO1 Elizer Rendaje, SPO1 Alimola Gulanaton, SPO1 Samad Maguindra, PO3 Ricky Balanuco, PO3 Gibrail Alano, PO2 Rexson Gulama, PO1 Amir Solaiman, PO1 Badjun Pane-gas, PO1 Pendatun Dima, PO1 Ebara Bebot, PO1 Tamano Hadi, PO1 Michael Macaranton and the Solano group members which include SPO1 Ali Solano, PO3 Felix Daquillos, PO2 Kendatu Rakim, PO1 Abdulraman Batarasa, PO1 Marjul Julkadi, PO1 Datu Jerry Uto, PO1 Mohammad Balading, PO1 Marsman Nilong, PO1 Ysmael Baraquir, PO1 Abdulmanan Saavedra, and PO1 Jimmy Kadong.

Also acquitted of the charges were PO1 Sandy Sabang, Takpan Dilon, Edris Tekay Nanding, PO1 Warden Legawan, Rainer Ebus, Mohamad Sangki, Tho Amino, Nor-

man Tatak, Malaguial Tanuri, Alimudin Sanguyod, Mama Habib, Sahid Giamadel, Datutulon Esmail, Kasim Lingkong, Abdulkadir Saludin, Akad Macaton, Norhato Kamino, Nasser Malaguia, P/Insp. Bahnarin Kamaong, P/Supt. Abdulwahid Pedtucasan, PO1 Ahmad Cam-sa Badal, PO2 Tanny Dalgan, PO1 Anwar Masukat, Samsudin Daud, Maot Bangkulat, Denga Mentol, Fahad Utto, PO1 Abdullah Baguadatu, PO1 Oscar Donato, and PO1 Michael Madsig.

The court said the prosecution failed to prove their guilt. Solis-Reyes also ordered the accused to pay damages totaling to PHP130 million.

A total of 101 individuals faced the trial out of the initial 197 who were originally included in the indictment. Meanwhile, 117 were arrested while 80 remain at large.

As the case dragged for 10 years, 11 of the accused were granted bail while 90 remained under detention.

Out of the 101, 57 accused including indigent litigants and policemen represented by the

Public Attorney's Office were acquitted by the court.

Eight have already been discharged and/or released including Vice Mayor Sukarno Badal. Another eight have already died while the case is pending including former Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr.

"Their acts were deliberate and obviously in pursuance of their plan to kill Datu Toto or whoever will file his Certificate of Candidacy," the judge said of the principal accused, whom the judge stressed were "positively identified and seen by witnesses to have actually participated in the shooting of the 57 innocent victims."

"The eyewitnesses who are familiar with accused Datu Unsay such as Rasul Sangki, Akmad Abubakar Esmael, Anok Akil, Norodin Maanyag, and Sukarno Badal categorically declared that they saw said accused in Sani-ag, Malating, and Masalay on November 23, 2009. At the risk of being repetitive, the court must remind again the accused that not only was he merely sighted, witnesses claimed that he was seen performing overt acts significant to the realization of the crimes charged," the court said.

Those acquitted were ordered released immediately unless they are being detained for other offenses.

First Smart City for the Masses Launch

(Taytay, Rizal) The first Lakeshore Smart City for the marginalized communities in the Philippines will be launched by Torque Village Development, Inc. in Lupang Arenda, San Juan, Taytay, Rizal, tomorrow Saturday, December 14, 2019, TVDI Chairperson and President Leo S. Duque announced.

TVDI or Torque Cities will pioneer this venture to strengthen deprived communities, initially, in the fringes of Rizal province and Metropolitan Manila by expanding home ownership, supporting business development, and by improving idle lands, Duque said.

Lakeshore Smart City is a high-quality, affordable, sustainable housing and business space for the poor sectors of our society as part of the government's program in expediting the relocation or settlement of informal settlers along Pasig River pursuant to Proclamation No. 704 of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Also, this program of Torque Cities is in line with the Laguna de Bay Basin Master Plan towards climate resilience and sustainable development.

Lakeshore Smart City will ensure the availability of healthy, clean and safe food, water and other basic needs of families and institutions as well as solve the perennial problems on waste, traffic, pollution and flooding in the area. It will be a community of peace, hopefully, free from drugs, crime and corruption.

"First beneficiaries of Torque Cities' Lakeshore Smart City are 1,000 indigent families and 1,000 poor uniformed personnel", TVDI Vice President Chaplain Frederick B. Berry said, "They will be provided with decent housing and livelihood opportunities in the midst of a livable, workable, sustainable city of ecology village, condominiums, amusement and creative parks, agro-forests, commercial and industrial facilities and modern port area."

(JULIUS JULIAN)

Senate ratifies bill raising taxes on alcohol, e-cigarettes

MANILA -- The Senate on Wednesday ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the measure that will tax electronic cigarettes and raise excise taxes on alcohol, which is expected to give the government an additional PHP24.9 billion in revenues.

The bicameral conference committee earlier reconciled Senate Bill No. 1074 and House Bill No. House Bill No. 1026. Under the final version, distilled spirits, fermented liquors, and wines will be given an ad valorem tax of 22 percent starting next year. In addition to the ad valorem tax, a specific tax will be imposed yearly until 2024.

For fermented liquor, the specific tax will start at 35 percent in 2020, 37 percent (2021), 39 percent (2022), 41 percent (2023) and 43 percent (2024).

In the case of distilled spirits, the specific taxes will start at 42 percent next year, 47 percent, 52 percent, 59 percent, and 66 percent by 2024.

Meanwhile, all bottles of wine will be taxed an additional PHP 50.

On the other hand, e-cigarettes will be taxed as follows: heated tobacco products, PHP25; vapor products with nicotine salt, PHP37; and conventional "freebase" or "classic" nicotine products, PHP45.

The House of Representatives is also set to ratify the measure Wednesday.



TAYTAY MAYOR JORIC at TVD

mga titulado na.

Ayon sa nakasulat sa FB ay inatasan ang mga tauhan ng PNP Taytay na ikulong ang mga tao na noon ay nagmimeting subalit ayon naman sa PNP ay hindi pa daw pwedeng ikulong ang mga ito hang-gat hindi gumagawa ng hakbang para kunin ang lupa.

Ayon sa nakasaad sa FB na ipinarating na ang kaganapan kay Rizal Governor Nini Alcantara-Ynares at Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) Gen. Manager Joey Medina.

Nakasaad sa FB na "Nananawagan kami sa mga may lupa na maglagay ng bantay at pabakuran na ang inyong mga lupa. Mapanganib at Organizado and Sindikato na ito na ang pinapakita ay permit mula sa Brgy. San Juan, Cainta, Rizal, samantalang sa Taytay sila nag tipon"

Ayon naman sa pamunuan ng TVDI na ang kanilang paglalaunch ng isang programa ay para sa mga maralitang Pilipono lamang na magiging miyembro ng SMART City.

Ayon pa sa pamunuan ng TVDI na ang kanilang paglaunched ng isang pro-

grama ay para sa proyektong pabahay sa mga maralitang Pilipino na kasalukuyang ay pawang nakatira sa mga tabi ng ilog ng Pasig sa tabi ng lawa at stero ng Laguna at iyon ang dahilan para isagaw nila ang nasabing proyektong.

Sinabi ni Chaplain Frederick B. berry, na siya ring chairman ng kumpanya na ilang beses na sila pumunta ng personal na tanggapan ni Mayor Joric upang magbigay ng sulat paabiso, subalit sila man ay binabastos ng nasabing alkalde.

Ang lupang pagtatayuan ng Smart City na may lawak ng 150 hektarya ay titulado at ang titulo ay kasalukuyang hawak ni Leo S. Duque na siyang binigyan ng karapatang ng mismong may ari ng lupa na kasalukuyan ay matanda na.

Ayon pa sa kanila na ang itatayong SMART City ay isang modernong pamayanan na mayroon ng mga paaralan at hospital, maging mga department store at palengke ay naroon na at hindi na maghihirap ang mga nakatira dahil libre na ang ilaw at tubig at iwas sa mga kalat ng basura at higit pa dito

Lakeshore Smart City, sila ay mga taga ibang bayan at walang maipakitang mg titulo ng lupa.

Ayon sa alkalde ay nakabantay umano ang Public Safety Office, GSO, Taytay PNP SWAT kanila kung may masama silang gagawin sa mga Lupa, subalit sa pagkakataon noon ay nagpupulong lamang ang TVDI para sa launching ng isang miyembro lamang ng Torque Village Development, Incorporated ang mga naroon.

Sinabi rin sa FB na ang TVDI ay nagsagawa ng program at launching ng isang real estate development na maaring gawing panloko sa mga balak bumili ng lupa. Kasama umano nila base sa FB ay ang mga Army Reservist at mga PNP enlisted personnel na baka umano ay masayang lang ang pera na ibabayad dahil nga umano ay pag-aari ng mga Taytay ang lupang nabanggit at pwanag

Ayon kay Mayor Gacula doon sa naka post sa Facebook (FB) na ngayon lamang pumasok ang mga di kilalang sindikato ng Lupa at nag set up ng Stage, Tarpaulin Backdrop mga mono block chairs na kasama ang TV5 media at iba pang radio station media personnel at nag lunch ng di umano ay