

By ALLEN ABASTILLAS

Hundreds of Abu Sayyaf militants from Sulu landed in the coasts of Tipo-Tipo, Basilan before the eve of Hari Raya Puasa to re-inforce their beleaguered comrades, an official said Friday.

Ungkayan Pukan Mayor Jomar Maturan told newsmen that the Abu Sayyaf from Sulu were helping their comrades in Basilan in harassing the 18 Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in its different detachments.

Maturan said the militants started the trouble in the poblacion of Tipo-Tipo Thursday night and about 200 families evacuated to their relatives in Ungkayan Pukan.

Maturan said the Abu Sayyaf used Puno Alibasa or Mt. Alibasa) as their sniping point using a 59 caliber Barret and 50 caliber semi-automatic shots in fighting the soldiers.

Troops countered the sniper attack by abu sayyaf mortar shelling and other high caliber guns resulting in the wounding of nine militants.

“ Wala man ako nakuha na information na may sugatan ang military. Tinitira ng Abu Sayyaf gabi-gabi ang military. We are appealing to the high leadership of the government na tulungan nila kami ng pagkain at tubig. Sobra ang panggugulo ng Abu Sayyaf.... Mga civilians ang naapektuhan,” Maturan said.

He said the Basilan based Abu Sayyaf is headed by Puruji Indama and Radzimir Jannatul.

ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman told newsmen that he believesthe military and the police can finish the Abu Sayyaf with the help of local government units and the populace.

Abus from Sulu land in Basilan to aid comrades

Saturday, 09 July 2016 12:03 -

“We have to stay united and solid to finish the lawless, elements,” Hataman said.-- Allen Abastillas