

More funds needed to protect women: group

By KRISTIANNE M. FUSILERO

WOMEN sectors urged the member states of the United Nations to increase the funds to protect them against the ill-effects of conflict and provide them with avenues to be involved in peace building, in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Res. No. 1325.

In the resolution enacted almost a decade ago, over 190 countries under the UN are urged to increase their financial, technical and logistical support for gender

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HARD TIMES. Fishermen in Times Beach, Matina, arrive after hours of braving the cold night while casting their nets at sea. Their catch? A mere three kilos, which is not even enough to feed their family much less sell at the market. **RENE B. LUMAWAG**

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sensitive training efforts and relevant programs in the United Nations Fund for Women and other concerned sub-agencies like United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Dr. Dee Aker, deputy director of the Institute for Peace and Justice, said the fund set aside for women concerns is not enough. The UN, for instance, just allocated \$221 million to United Nations Fund for women compare to United Nations Children Fund with \$3 billion.

Aker said the \$221 million budget is small to run the entire world. "We don't have the power. In the United Nations, we just receive less than the other sub-agencies under the organization. We really need to push hard for increasing the funds in order also to make Res. No. 1325 in reality," she said.

Res. No. 1325 states also urged the members under the UN to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides women to take equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security against war.

Analiza Ugay, advocacy officer of Balay Rehabilitation Center-Davao, said the budget allotted by the government for the vulnerable country is a measly P5 million. She said this only shows that women concerns are not in the list of priorities by the administration.

Ugay said the national government prioritized more the procurement of guns for the military than for the concerns of women especially for

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as chair of the ruling party Lakas-Kampi-CMD. Villar has accused the LP of spreading the lies.

"This barrage of propaganda of the lowest kind is appalling," said Legarda.

A Pulse Asia survey of 3,000 registered voters conducted from March 21 to 28 showed Aquino has further distanced himself from the

the implementation of Res. No. 1325 in the country. Data from the Department of Budget and Management revealed that the annual fund for the Armed Forces of the Philippines is almost P60 billion.

"In terms of funding, it was generally small. Men just don't realize that they should protect women. Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, she only allotted P5 million which most of it goes to the non-govern-

closest rival after 37 percent of the respondents said they would vote for him. Villar's rating, meanwhile, dropped four percentage points from the 29 percent in February.

In the vice presidential race, Roxas leads the pack with 43 percent while Legarda was far behind with 23 percent.

According to the senator, it shows Aquino's and Roxas'

ment organizations and civil society group. Maybe there are efforts but it is not still enough," Ugay said.

Ugay said women should be given importance since they are a powerful tool in the peace process since they opt for peace negotiations rather than keeping the country in conflict. All women should as well contribute even in smaller ways without waiting the mandate from the national government, she added.