

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



**TEAM ARMY**  
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

18 August 2017

Friday

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

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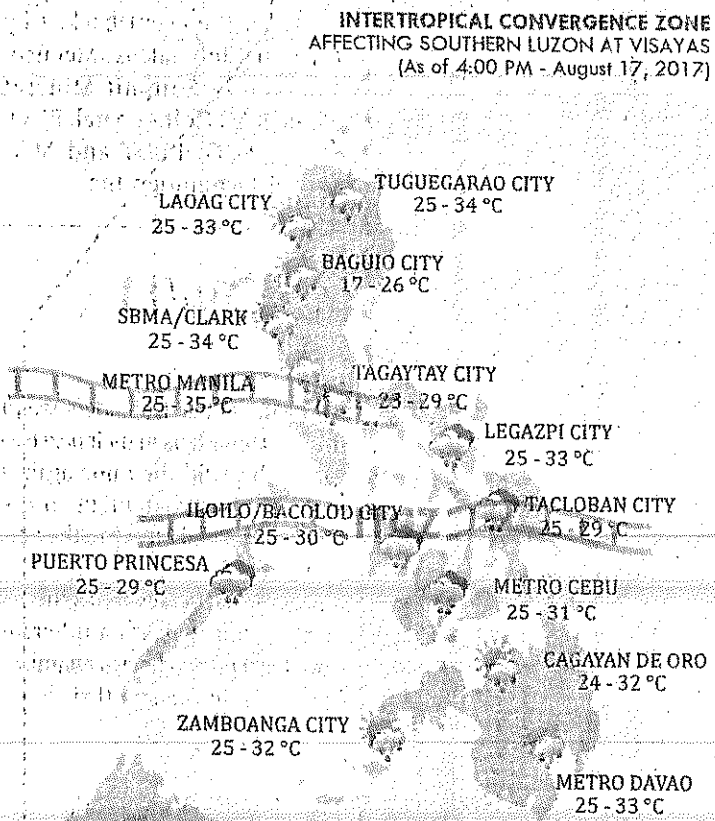
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# The Manila Times

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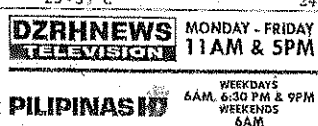
## TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST AUGUST 18, 2017 | FRIDAY



<b>SUNRISE</b> 5:43 AM	<b>SUNSET</b> 6:17 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b> 1:55 AM	<b>MOONSET</b> 3:07 PM
<b>FULL MOON</b> AUG 8 2:11 AM	<b>LAST QUARTER</b> AUG 15 9:15 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 1:56 PM 0.19 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 5:04 AM 1.10 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.  
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms.

	AUG 19 SATURDAY	AUG 20 SUNDAY	AUG 21 MONDAY		AUG 19 SATURDAY	AUG 20 SUNDAY	AUG 21 MONDAY
METRO MANILA	25 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	25 - 34 °C	BAGUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 26 °C	16 - 26 °C
METRO CEBU	26 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	BORACAY	24 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C



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# Army's Solcom gets new chief

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**T**HE commander of the Philippine Army's 4th Infantry Division will be sitting as the new chief of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom).

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal served as the commander of the 4th Infantry Division but prior to that he was the chief of staff of the Philippine Army and was designated as acting division commander of the 10th Infantry Division.

Madrigal has a master's degree in Management Studies from the University of South Wales in Canberra, Australia, in 1999 and a master's degree in Public Administration from the Philippine Christian University in 2006.

He will be replacing Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Matikas" Class of 1983.

Madrigal is a member of the PMA "Sandiwa" Class of 1985.

A source told reporters that President Rodrigo Duterte signed the appointment papers of Madrigal early last week, designating him as the new chief of the "security-sensitive" part of the country, the Solcom.

Solcom is a unified command unit under the Armed Forces of the Philippines that has battled communist rebels from the New

People's Army since the 1970s in Southern Luzon, a hotbed of Maoist insurgency.

For Madrigal, a native of Los Banos, Laguna, "unified" efforts among Solcom men would be of assistance for the whole command to develop and has expressed confidence that he can "suppress" the NPA rebels.

"It's easier to do here than in Mindanao. In Mindanao, lots of enemies are there, in Southern Luzon, it's basically what is remaining here [Solcom] are remnants," he said.

"Of course, the atmosphere of development is also important.

The government is working and [enemy] propaganda will not take effect. Everybody will have their own goal and everybody is contributing," Madrigal added.

The Army general sought assistance from stakeholders and residents in addressing possible security threats in Southern Luzon.

"I am envisioning participation coming from stakeholders here in our campaign against lawless elements surrounding the area," according to Madrigal.

But despite his campaign in neutralizing NPA rebels in Solcom, Madrigal said there is nothing to

fear with his leadership.

A military source told reporters that Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) will be assuming the previous position of Madrigal as commander of the 4th Infantry Division.

Brig. Gen. Macairog Alberto of the 1001st Infantry Brigade will sit as the new chief of the ISAFP.

Aside from Quidilla, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo of the Northern Luzon Command will be retiring in September but his replacement is yet to be announced.

OFF

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## New Solcom chief sets sights on NPA

PRESIDENT Duterte has designated Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, chief of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, as the new commander of a unified command leading the fight against communist rebels in southern Luzon.

Madrigal is due to assume command as the new chief of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Lucena City today, vice Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla who is due to reach the retirement age of 56 on August 30.

Duterte approved the designation of Madrigal as Solcom commander last week, on the recommendation of the AFP's Board of Generals which is chaired by AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

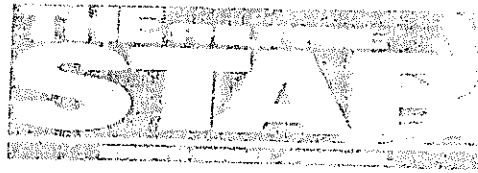
Madrigal, a member of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1985, assumed as chief of the Cagayan de Oro City-based 4th ID in March last year. Before that, he was the Army's chief of staff.

He has held other significant positions in the Armed Forces, including chief of the War Plans Division at the office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, chief of the Army's Management and Fiscal Office, commander of the 701st Brigade, and deputy commander of the 10th Infantry Division. – *Victor Reyes*

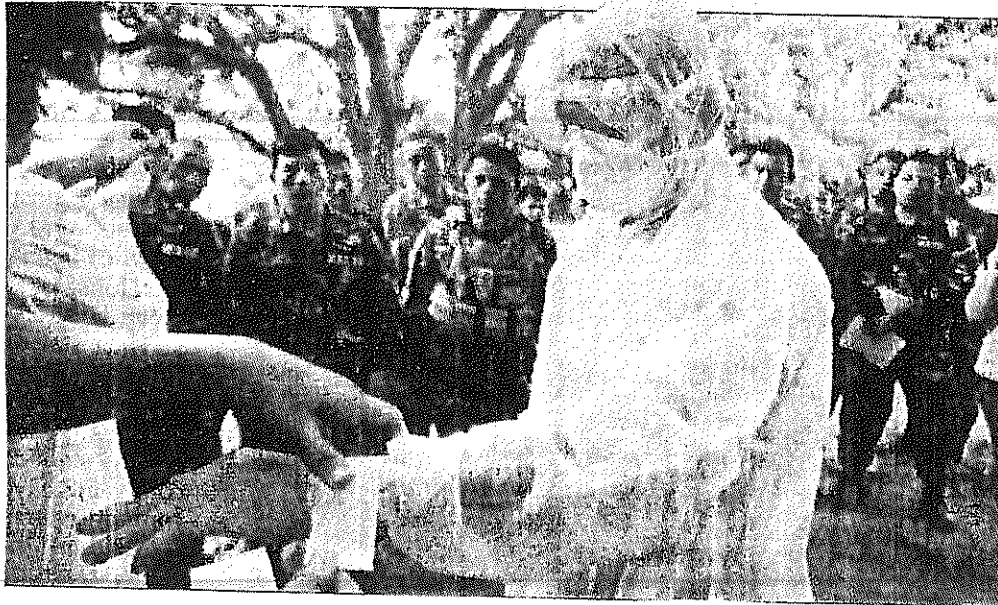
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A soldier is dressed in protective clothing by two veterinarians as other Army men watch during a safety orientation in San Luis, Pampanga yesterday. Around 300 soldiers are being tapped to help cull fowls in the town following a bird flu outbreak.

MICHAEL VARCAS

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**PREPARING FOR  
THE CULLING**  
- An Army  
soldier wears a  
protective suit  
that will be used  
in the culling of  
birds in San Luis  
town, Pampanga.  
Around 300  
soldiers are  
reportedly being  
tapped for the  
culling of fowls.  
(Rolex dela  
Pena/EPA)

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### 3 Abu bandits rapped

**THREE** suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits arrested during encounter with Philippine Marines last week were charged before the Department of Justice (DoJ) yesterday afternoon.

The suspects, identified as Salip Ismael Abdulla, Isa Ukang and a minor were brought to the DoJ for inquest proceedings.

They were charged with rebellion and presented before investigating Asst. State Prosecutor George Yarte Jr.

According to the complaint of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMin-Com), the three were among the 30 Abu Sayyaf members who figured in a clash with soldiers in Barangay Pang in Kalingalan Caluang town, Sulu.

Troops belonging to the Marine Battalion Landing Team 3 under Lieutenant Colonel Henry Espinosa were conducting focused military operations when they encountered the bandits.

Two Marines were killed while another soldier was wounded during the encounter. Five Abu Sayyaf members, on the other hand, were killed. **Hector Lawas**

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The Manila Times

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# Stop Marawi bombings, ulamas urge Duterte

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**T**HE Ulama League of the Philippines on Thursday called on President Rodrigo Duterte to stop bombings in Marawi City and find other ways to purge the remaining terrorists there.

In a statement received by the military's Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), the group expressed its support to the government's campaign against the Islamic State-linked Maute Group but appealed that the air strikes be stopped.

"[W]hile we support this action and other programs of the government for peace and development, we are earnestly requesting the President of the Philippines to find other ways to purge out of Marawi the extremists rather than aerial bombings

7 which have caused and is continuously causing damage to lives and property," it said.

The Commission on Human Rights had earlier appealed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to halt the air strikes to avoid civilian casualties.

Multi-sectoral groups based in Mindanao also urged the government to stop dropping bombs on the besieged city.

The Ulama League of the Philippines condemned the Maute group for portraying a negative image of Islam, causing destruction in Marawi, killing civilians and taking hostages.

The military said it respects the appeal of the ulamas but that it will continue with its air strikes.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, WestMinCom spokeswoman, said command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. noted the importance of air strikes.

She said mosques and religious iconic structures will not be bombed.

7 The Ulama council also committed its assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi City, suggesting that the council be tapped to monitor the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city.

18 August 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Duterte finalizes plans for Marawi rehab

**BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

PRESIDENT Duterte on Wednesday night ordered various agencies to expedite the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi.

The President issued the instructions during a meeting in Malacañang with Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez and representatives of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), National Housing Authority (NHA), Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan: Ikaw, Bangko, Industria at Gobyerno (PAG-IBIG), and the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

Duterte issued the order even as Muslim leaders asked him to stop military airstrikes against

the Maute Group involved in the continuing rebellion in Marawi City since May 23.

The Ulama League of the Philippines made the request in a statement issued on Wednesday at the culmination of a three-day "Search for a United Voice for Peace and Justice" conference held in Iligan City.

The group furnished copies of the statement to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año

The statement condemned the "violent extremist group," referring to the Maute Group, noting their acts "have portrayed a negative image of Islam" and "have caused the destruction in Marawi City."

Duterte, according to a statement released by Malacañang, said the government should be

prepared to immediately execute the recovery plans for the Islamic City and other affected areas once the Armed Forces and the PNP are done with clearing operations.

Duterte also said rehabilitation efforts would purely be a "civilian endeavor." He also stressed the need to continuously provide displaced families with their most basic needs such as food and clean water.

He also assured the different agencies that he will push for the realignment of the country's budget to cater to the needs of each department in relation to the funding of their rehabilitation plans.

DSWD Undersecretary Hope Hervilla reported that the distribution of goods in all evacuation centers is still ongoing, while NHA

See DUTERTE ► Page B3

## DUTERTE

General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. said the construction of temporary shelters will begin in September with priority being given to around 4,900 families living in evacuation centers.

Lopez said the DTI has already provided livelihood equipment like sewing machines and clothing materials to some evacuees and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) had also committed to donate 100 more sewing machines for the IDPs.

He also identified several other initiatives to help the IDPs return to normal life, including setting up temporary marketplaces in parts of

Iligan where evacuees can set up their own stores. He said the DTI will also work with the Department of Labor and Employment on the conduct of job fairs for IDPs.

Before the meeting, Duterte met with actor Robin Padilla and witnessed the signing of a Deed of Donation (DOD) between the latter and the DSWD through Social Welfare Undersecretary Emmanuel Leyco. Padilla donated P5 million "for the immediate psychosocial intervention for the children affected by the hostilities in Marawi City."

### NO TO BOMBING

The Ulama League of the Philippines expressed its support to Duterte's

instruction to the Armed Forces to purge out the violent extremists out of Marawi City.

"(But) while we support this action and other programs of the government for peace and development, we are earnestly requesting the President ... to find other ways to purge out of Marawi the extremists rather than the aerial bombings," the group said.

It noted that such airstrikes "have caused and is continuously causing damage to lives and property."

The military has been utilizing various Air Force aircraft in hitting enemy positions in Marawi City, including the SF-260 fighter jets and SF-260 planes which figured in friendly fire incidents that caused the death of 12 soldiers

involved in the on-going operations in the city.

The group also asked the government to involve Muslim leaders in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi City, especially those that concern the moral, spiritual, social, educational and religious aspects of the endeavor.

Sought for a comment, AFP Western Mindanao Command and Joint Task Force Marawi spokesperson Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay said Wesmincom commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said airstrikes are still needed in the ongoing operations.

“The response by commander Wesmincom is that airstrikes are still needed. These are needed by our troops on the ground. But he said we will see...His answer is ‘we will see’ but he didn’t say their request is a no,” said Petinglay.

Petinglay assured that the airstrikes being done are commensurate to the resistance offered by the enemy. – *With Victor Reyes*

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## **Robin, nag-donate ng P5M para sa mga batang Marawi**

**NI ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**



**Pangulong Duterte at Robin**

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**N**AGBIGAY ng limang milyong piso ang donasyon ni Robin Padilla sa Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) upang matulongang makabawi sa pamumuhay ang mga biktima, lalo na ang mga bata, sa nagpapatuloy na giyera sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Iniabot ni Padilla ang donasyon nang bisitahin niya si Pangulong Rody Duterte sa Malacañang, nitong nakaraang Miyerkules ng gabi, bago lumipad pabalik sa Davao City ang Pangulo.

Nasaksihan ni Duterte ang pagpirma ng deed of donation (DOD) at ang turnover ng tseke na nagkakahalaga ng limang milyong piso, ni Robin kay DSWD Undersecretary Emmanuel Leyco.

Ayon sa Malacañang, ang donasyon ni Robin ay para sa "immediate psychosocial intervention for the children affected by the armed conflict in Marawi."

Bukod kay Duterte, sinaksihan din ang turnover ceremony nina Defense Secretary **Delfin Lorenzana**, Trade and Industry Secretary **Ramon Lopez**, DSWD Assistant Secretary **Rodolfo Santos**, at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff General **Eduardo Año**.

Kasama naman ni Robin sina Fisheries Development Authority General Manager **Glen Pangapalan**, Frabelle Foods Corp. President **Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr.**, at ang kapatid niyang si **Rommel Padilla**.

Sa kanyang Facebook account, pinuri ni Robin ang mga pagsisikap ni Duterte na isailalim

sa rehabilitasyon ang Marawi, partikular ang pagbubuo ng Task Force Bangon Marawi.

Lahad ni Padilla, nagbigay ng klarong paliwanag sina Lorenzana at Año tungkol sa ligtas at maingat na pagbabalik ng mga lumikas na residente sa kani-kanilang bahay.

Binigyang-diin naman nina Duterte at Leyco na kailangan ng mga residente ang tubig at pagkain.

Tinatayang 400,000 katao ang inilikas dahil sa giyera ng militar at ng pro-Islamic State (ISIS) Maute group na nagsimula noong Mayo 23, 2017. Bunsod nito, nagdeklara ng batas militar si Duterte sa buong Mindanao. Ang deklarasyon ay pinahaba ng Kongreso hanggang sa katapusan ng taon.

Ayon sa AFP, iba't ibang grupo na ang nagsagawa ng psychosocial aid sa Marawi City upang malaman ang dulot ng karanasan ng mga inilikas na residente, partikular ang mga bata.

Isa si Robin sa mga prominenteng tagasuporta noong kasagsagan ng kampanya ni Duterte sa pagkapangulo.

Noong Nobyembre 2016, binigyan ni Duterte si Robin ng absolute pardon sa kasong illegal possession of firearms noong 1994 at nasentensiyahan ng 21 taong pagkakakulong. Nakulong siya nang umakyat ang kaso sa Court of Appeals noong 1995. Nakalabas siya sa kulungan nang bigyan ng conditional pardon ni dating Pangulong **Fidel Ramos** noong 1997.

Isa rin si Robin sa mga inirerekomenda ng Board of Pardons and Parole para pagkalooban ng executive clemency.

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## Robin donates P5M for displaced Marawi kids

By **EFREN MONTANO**

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Roa Duterte witnessed the turnover of the P5 million deed of donation by actor Robin Padilla to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the victims of Marawi City.**

DSWD Undersecretary Emmanuel Leyco received the donation from Padilla in simple ceremonies in Malacañang Palace Wednesday evening.

The P5-million donation is intended for the immediate psychosocial intervention for the children affected by the hostilities in Marawi City, it was said.

The President personally thanked Padilla during the turnover ceremony.

Present at the turnover rites were Fisheries Development Authority General Manager Glen Pangapalan, Frabelle Foods Corporation president Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., and the actor's brother Rommel Padilla.

The AFP earlier said various groups have conducted psychosocial aid in Marawi City to address the stress experienced by the displaced residents, particularly the children.

Reports said over 7,200

Marawi crisis evacuees face mental health issues.

The Lanao del Sur Provincial Health Office said on August 6 that 7,248 evacuees from the Marawi crisis need mental health intervention and psychosocial support.

Seventy-eight of them had severe mental health issues and were hospitalized.

Meanwhile, 6,574 evacuees need focused interventions like one-on-one therapy sessions. In addition, 529 need community and family support.

Marawi Crisis Management Committee Spokesperson Zia Alonto Adiong said they need more experts to deal with this emerging crisis, as well as more food supplies to ensure proper nutrition and better state of mind of evacuees.

Meanwhile, the President also had a meeting with members of Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), including its leader Sen. Gregorio Honasan II.

The meeting came after Honasan was indicted for graft and posted bail over the alleged misuse of his P29.1-million Priority Development Assistance Fund in 2012.

The President ended a rather hectic Wednesday night by playing like a good neighbor as he visited and handed P5,000 cash aid to the fire victims in San Miguel, Manila.

Duterte met hundreds of the homeless victims inside the San Miguel Church. He gave P5,000 and relief goods to each family.

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Pahina. 2

### **Terrorist attacks sa Nigeria, Pakistan kinondena ng Pinas**

Kinondena kahapon ng Pilipinas ang naganap na suicide bombing ng suspected Islamic terrorists sa Nigeria at Pakistan kung saan ay mahigit 50 katao ang nasawi at mahigit 100 ang nasugatan.

"The Philippines joins the international community in condemning the terrorist attacks in Nigeria and Pakistan that took many innocent lives," ayon kay Foreign Affairs Sec. Alan Peter Cayetano kahapon.

"We stand in solidarity with the governments and peoples of Nigeria and Pakistan as they confront the same threat of violent extremism that we are now also faced with in Mindanao," paliwanag ni Cayetano.

Ayon sa DFA, isang female suicide bomber ang pinasabog ang sarili sa palengke ng Maidorugi City sa Northeast ng Nigeria noong Martes kung saan 27 katao ang nasawi.

May 2 suicide bomber din ang umatake naman malapit sa refugee camp at marami din ang nasaktan ng sumabog ang bomba ng mga ito.

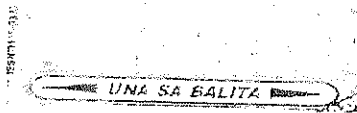
Sa Pakistan naman ay isang suicide bomber ang umatake sa military convoy sa may Quetta City noong Sabado na ikinasawi ng 15 katao at mahigit 40 ang nasugatan. Inako ng Islamic State ang responsibilidad sa nasabing insidente.

Nauina rito, nagpalahas ng babala ang DFA sa mga Pinoy sa abroad na maging maingat dahil sa mga terror attack. *(Rudy Andal)*

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Pahina. 2

## Marawi rehab pinamamadali ni Digong

Inatasan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nitong Miyerkules ang lahat ng ahensya ng gobyerno na madaliin ang preparasyon para sa reconstruction at recovery ng Marawi City.

Ito ang naging tampok sa ginawang pakikipagpu-long ni Pangulong Duterte kamakalawa sa Malacañang sa pagitan ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno na katuwang sa pagsasakatu-paran ng rehabilitasyon sa Marawi City.

Kabilang sa mga dumalo sa pulong ay ang mga opisyaes ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); Department of National Defense (DND), Hous-

ing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), National Housing Authority (NHA), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), at Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG).

Sa nasabing pulong ay binigyan-diin ni Duterte na dapat ay handang-handa ang gobyerno sa agarang implementasyon ng rehabilitasyon sa Islamic City at iba pang apektadong lugar upang maisakatuparan na ang pagbangon sa sandaling matapos ang clearing operations ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National

Police (PNP).

Idinagdag pa ni Pangulong Digong na sa sandaling matapos ang gi-yera ay ang kapakanan naman ng mga sibilyan ang tututukan sa pamamagitan ng pag-rehabilitate sa mga apektadong lugar.

Samantala, sinaksihan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang pag-turnover ng deed of donation ng actor na si Robin Padilla kay Social Welfare Undersecretary Emmanuel Leyco sa Malacañang Palace kahapon.

Ang P5 milyong donasyon ni Robin ay nakalaan para sa agarang psychosocial intervention para sa mga bata na apektado ng karahasan sa Marawi City. (Aries Caño)

18 August 2017

Pahina. 4



## DOBLE TUTOK SI DIGONG SA PAGBANGON NG MARAWI

NGAYONG malapit nang matapos ang kaguluhan sa Marawi City ay inaasahan na doble ang gagawing pagtutok ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte upang tuluyang makabangon ang naturang lugar sa mga naging pinsala ng labanan.

Ayon sa panayam ng mga mamamahayag sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), posibleng sa mga susunod na linggo ay matatapos na nila ang labanan at tuluyan na ring maibabalik sa Marawi City ang katahimikan sa kanilang lugar.

Dahil dito, sabik na sabik na ang mga kababayan natin na naninirahan sa mga apektadong lugar na makabalik sa kanilang mga bahay ngunit dahil sa naganap na labanan ay karamihan sa kanilang mga tirahan ay nawasak.

Ito ngayon ang una sa plano ni Pangulong Duterte, ang muling maibalik at isaayos ang mga bahay na nasira sa labanan at maging ang iba pang nasira ng kaguluhan ay inaasahang maibalik sa dating ganda at kaayusan.

Abalang-abala na rin ang iba't ibang ahen-siya ng gobyerno na naatasan ng Pangulo na mangasiwa sa muling pagsasaayos ng Marawi City kabilang na rito ang Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) at iba pa na magtutulong-tulong upang maibalik sa ayos ang pamumuhay ng mga residenteng naapektuhan ng kaguluhan.

Bukod sa pagsasaayos ng mga nasira sa kaguluhan ay bibigyan din ng TESDA ng skills training ang lahat ng mga residente nang sa gayon ay magkaroon sila ng sapat na kasayan na kanilang magagamit sa paghahanap-buhay.

Maging ang pamilya ng mga sundalo at pulis na namatay o nasugatan sa labanan kahit saang banda ay bibigyan din ng pagkaka-taon ng TESDA na magkaroon ng skills training bilang tulong ng ahensiya sa mga tropa ng gobyerno na nagbuwis ng buhay sa pagtanggol sa bayan.

Bagama't malaking pera ang gugugulin ng gobyerno upang maibalik ang kaayusan ng Marawi City ay nakahanda naman ang administrasyon ni Duterte upang matugunan ang pangangailanan ng mga residente.

Makaaasa ang mga naapektuhan ng kaguluhan na sakaling matapos na ang labanan ay agad na sisimulan ng gobyerno ang pagbabalik ng kaayusan sa kanilang lugar upang makabangon ang mga kababayan nating na nag-ing biktima ng digmaan.

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## **ONLINE NEWS**

**18 AUGUST 2017**

[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

# **Pinoy Artists Sing to Raise P4.5 Million for Marawi Heroes**

*ARMY CORE PURPOSE*

**CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City** – A total of P4.5-million were raised in a benefit concert for the heroes of the battle-stricken Marawi City, Sunday night, 13 August 2017 at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Theatre.

“The AFP expresses its deep gratitude to Mr. Joel Cruz and his team for their initiative in putting up ‘Awit Sa Marawi’, and for encouraging their partners to support the families of our troops who died, and those continuing the fight in order to finish the rebellion in Marawi City,” Colonel Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Chief said.

Cruz, the President, and CEO of Aficionado spearheaded the activity that aimed to raise funds for the benefit of soldiers who were Wounded-In-Action (WIA), or Killed-In-Action (KIA) during the rebellion in Marawi. It will also benefit their families, and displaced residents of the city.

The concert featured performances from various OPM artists, including AFP’s Singing Soldiers. The songs include “Isang Lahi” performed by Heidi, “Piliin Mo Ang Pilipinas” by Baguio General Hospital Nurses, “Nais Ko” by Elcid, “Dingin Mo Bayan” by Mel Soriano, and “Sundalo” by the Special Forces Band.

The concert was attended by uniformed and non-uniformed members of the AFP as well as audiences from the public and private sectors.

The donations from sponsors reached P3.5-Million while Cruz personally donated P1-Million to the AFP. In his speech, Cruz said he hopes the concert will give inspiration to the Filipinos, and other organizations to continue supporting the Armed Forces amid ongoing conflicts, particularly in Marawi City.

‘Awit Sa Marawi’ was organized by Aficionado in partnership with the Civil Relations Service AFP, and other sponsors.

“On behalf of the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines, I extend my deep gratitude to the donors and sponsors who helped raise funds for our troops and their families. Your generosity and manifestation of support continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for our soldiers to continue to fight towards just and lasting peace for our country,” General Eduardo Año, AFP Chief of Staff said.

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[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

## **“Food for Peace” reaches Pantar**

*By Staff*

**PANTAR, Lanao del Norte** – In its second serving, the City Mayor's Mobile Kitchen jointly administered by the LGU-Marawi and the Joint Task Group Tabang rolled over Pantar evacuation center to serve a freshly cooked nutritious meal in the families there, Tuesday, August 8.

JTG Tabang cooked mixed vegetables and stripped chicken known as “chicken with creamy mushroom soup” that was enjoyed mostly by the children at the said center.

Around 500 individuals partook the food prepared, cooked, and served by the soldiers and some IDP volunteers.

The City Mayor's Mobile Kitchen serving “food for peace” was launched on Sunday, August 6 and now serving to all evacuation centers in the provinces of Lanao.

Colonel Thomas Sedano, commander of the Joint Task Group Tabang in his message to the IDPs said that the activity would not be realized without the partnership fostered between the Joint Task Group Tabang and the LGU-Marawi.

He also said that through that simple gestures of serving “food for peace”, the government can deliver a message of peace across the province and across the country.

www.pna.gov.ph

## DND to turn General Arsenal into priority supplier of weapons, ammo

Priam Nepomuceno August 17, 2017, 10:42 pm

MANILA -- The Department of National Defense (DND) is committed to transform the General Arsenal (GA) into the top supplier of rifles and ammunition for all of the country's security forces.

This was bared by DND Secretary Defin Lorenzana during the turn over ceremony at the GA headquarters in Limay, Bataan Wednesday.

In the above-mentioned event, GA director Jonathan Martir was replaced by retired Major Gen. Daniel Casabar after a seven-year tenure.

"To make this happen, we at the DND commit to support the GA as the priority supplier of rifles and ammunition not only for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) but hopefully, to the entire security forces of the Philippine government including the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and all other armed civilian agencies," he said.

To do this, Lorenzana said the DND is committed to supporting the GA in enhancing its production capability and capacity.

This includes GA's officials and employees' well-being so that they can provide better services and cater to the needs of the country's defense and security forces, he added. (PNA)

## Outgoing Govt Arsenal chief lauded for initiative, dedication

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 17): Outgoing Govt Arsenal chief lauded for initiative, dedication

Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has recognized outgoing Government Arsenal (GA) director, retired Maj. Gen. Jonathan Martir, for his initiative and dedication that helped the agency produce diversified defense materiel.

"Because of Director Martir's initiative and leadership, the GA has diversified production of defense materiel for use of the AFP's (Armed Forces of the Philippines') tactical units, repaired unserviceable rifles of the AFP, and developed its capability in manufacturing weapons, as well as medium and large caliber ammunition." Lorenzana said as Martir formally stepped down on Wednesday after serving a seven-year term.

He expressed hope that Martir's replacement, retired Maj. Gen. Daniel Casabar, would carry on the reforms and good governance that the former had carried out.

Casabar, he said, is well-fitted for the post as he served the military in various capacities prior to his retirement in April 2010.

"I know that the GA is in good hands with Maj. Gen. Casabar on top, confident that he can stir the GA to realize our longtime dream of having a self-reliant defense posture," the defense chief added.

The GA is tasked to produce rifles and ammunition for all Philippine security forces.

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<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

## AFP soldiers train in US military base

From the Manila Bulletin (Aug 15): AFP soldiers train in US military base

For the first time, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) were given access to a United States (US) military base to train with US Marines from Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

According to the US Embassy in Manila, Philippine Marines from Assault Armor Battalion worked alongside their American counterparts in Okinawa for more than two weeks to become familiar with Amphibious Assault Vehicles and how to best utilize their capabilities.

The US embassy reported that during the training, Filipino Marines learned different amphibious skills such as hand signaling, egress training, and water operations. They also familiarized themselves with maintenance procedures, logistical planning, and facility capabilities.

"This training benefits both forces moving forward as they continue to work together during exercises such as Kamandag this October to bolster Philippine amphibious capability and combined security operations," the embassy said in a press statement.

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