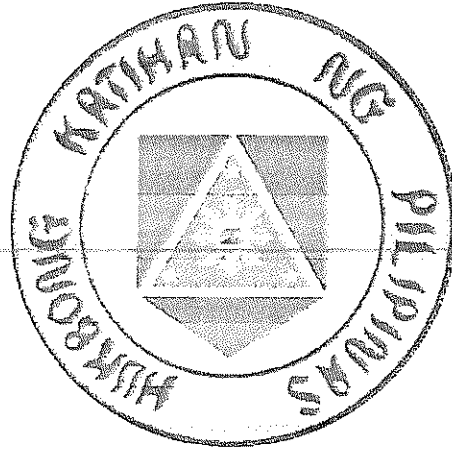


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

20 October 2017

Friday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

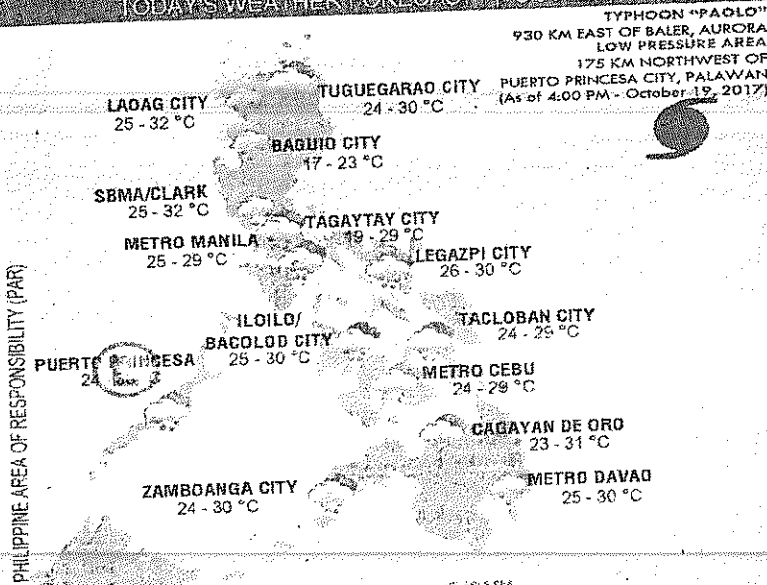
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 20, 2017 | FRIDAY



SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:48 AM	5:33 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:00 AM	5:06 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
OCT 30 3:12 AM	OCT 28 8:22 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
4:22 AM 0.21 Meter	10:41 AM 0.74 Meter
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

METRO MANILA 25 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY 19 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN 24 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO 25 - 29 °C	LEGAZPI 25 - 29 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG 26 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO 16 - 22 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD 25 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA 24 - 30 °C
SBMA/ CLARK 25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 30 °C	

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION MONDAY - FRIDAY 11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD WEEKDAYS 6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM WEEKENDS 6AM

AIR 21 SAGOT KO, PROBLEH HAY!

20 October 2017

INQUIRER

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AFP: New 'emir' among latest fatalities

FROM A1

MARAWI CITY—The military said on Thursday that there was a "big possibility" that a top Malaysian militant tipped to become the point man of the Islamic State (IS) group in Southeast Asia had been killed in a clash with troops overnight.

Twenty terrorists among the remaining IS loyalists holed up in the devastated heart of Marawi were killed in the latest fighting, likely including Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, said Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military's Task Force Ranao.

"There is a big possibility that Mahmud is among them," Brawner told reporters on Thursday.

"But we will be definite only once we have a match of probably DNA samples, maybe of the dental records," he added.

Duterte: Taken

President Duterte, speaking at a Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry gathering on Thursday night, said Mahmud had been "taken."

Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the military, said what Mr. Duterte meant was that Mahmud had been killed.

Padilla confirmed that the Malaysian militant had in-

deed been killed.

Mahmud's death is a blow to any effort by IS, which is on the back foot in Syria and Iraq, to establish an enclave in Southeast Asia.

The military said in a statement earlier on Thursday that 13 terrorists were killed overnight and seven on Thursday morning.

Two hostages—a mother and her daughter—were rescued and information they provided meant the authorities were "increasingly becoming confident" that Mahmud was dead, Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said in the statement.

"The process to confirm this (Mahmud's death) with finality, however, is still [going on]," Año said.

Hostages killed?

Brawner also said the military feared the remaining terrorists, now considered stragglers because they had no leaders, had executed the remaining hostages.

"I hope this is not the case but we suspected they have killed the hostages or some of them," he said.

He said 18 hostages, including women and children, remained at the battle zone after the rescue of 38 this month.



COURTESY OF THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Mahmud Ahmad

There were also other non-combatants in the area and they were families of the terrorists, he said.

Pivotal role

Mahmud, a 39-year-old former university lecturer who used the nom de guerre Abu Handzalah, is believed to have been pivotal in raising and channeling funds to the alliance of Maute group terrorists and Abu Sayyaf bandits and their foreign allies during the occupation of Marawi that has lasted 150 days, killing more than 1,000 people, mostly terrorists.

Some experts say Mahmud could become Islamic State's Southeast Asian "emir," or lead-

del Sur province.

Confident that it has won the battle for Marawi, the military is withdrawing some troops starting on Friday.

Brawner said the 1st Infantry Battalion, which had been here since June 1, would return to its base in Infanta, Quezon province.

Rights abuses

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is reportedly verifying alleged abuses committed by soldiers and policemen during the battle for Marawi.

Malacañang welcomed the CHR review and investigation of the action of state security forces in Marawi, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a press briefing on Thursday.

Abella also said Mr. Duterte's move to declare Marawi liberated was a "strategic message."

"Technically, the leadership has been neutralized and that whatever forces that are left are nonsignificant and as it has been referred to, should be a matter of police enforcement," he said.

From the government's perspective, he said, everything is aligned and Marawi is on the road to recovery. —REPORTS FROM REUTERS, AP, JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, ALLAN NAWAL, GEOFFREY MAITEM, RICHEL UMEL AND DIVINA SUSON INQ

er, after the battlefield death on Monday of Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, the head of the terrorist alliance that seized Marawi on May 23 to carve out an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

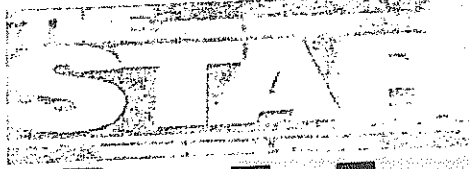
Government troops on

Monday killed Hapilon, who had a \$5-million price on his head offered by the United States.

The troops also killed Omarkhayam Maute, one of two brothers at the helm of the Maute terrorist clan of Lanao

26 October 2017

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Martial law to stay in Mindanao - Rody

'Until last terrorist dead'

BY ALEXIS ROMERO

Despite the liberation of Marawi City, Mindanao will remain under martial law until the last terrorist is killed, President Duterte said last night.

"I declared martial law. Everybody is asking when it will stop. It will not stop until the last terrorist is taken out," Duterte told the 43rd Philippine Business Conference in Manila.

Duterte said the Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorists could still launch retaliatory attacks against government forces conducting clearing operations in the battle area.

"Be careful of retaliation. We know and I know it's coming. When we really do not know," he said.

Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, leaders of the terrorists who laid siege to Marawi last May 23, were killed in an early morning raid last Monday, a development seen as a major setback to extremists in the region.

The siege, which officials said was funded by narcotics money, prompted the President to place Mindanao under martial law.

Officials claimed that politicians involved in the illegal drug trade conspired with the Islamist militants to

stage a rebellion against the Duterte administration.

Critics and human rights groups have expressed concern that military rule would pave way to abusive practices

and suppression of liberties.

A day after the death of Hapilon and Maute, Duterte declared that Marawi has been liberated from the influence of terrorists, allowing the govern-

ment to shift its focus to rehabilitating the city.

Some sectors have asked Duterte to lift martial law now that security forces have eliminated the leaders of the bandits.

But the military said martial law is still needed to curb terrorist networks in other parts of Mindanao like Basilan and Sulu.

Duterte said he declared martial law to finish the threat posed by the IS militants.

"The siege of Marawi is purely ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). That's why I declared martial law and I said we have to finish this or we go kaput," he said.

"Time and again, I told the Filipino people the rebellion, ISIS, is coming in and it is funded by shabu," he added.

A total of 847 militants, 163 government troopers and 47 civilians have died since the siege started last May. The crisis also displaced 78,466 families or 359,680 persons.

Duterte thanked China, the United States and Israel for supporting the government's anti-terrorism campaign in Marawi.

He also informed Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua that Chinese rifles killed Hapilon and Maute, a claim disputed by some websites on defense equipment.

The cleanup

War might still be raging in the ruins of this city, but the cleanup has already begun.

Under guard of dozens of police and soldiers, about 100 of the 200,000 residents driven from their homes during 150 days of fighting have returned to start what will be a massive operation to clear the city of the debris of war.

Army trucks crawled through the deserted streets to take displaced people to safe areas of Marawi, where echoes of gunfire and explosions could still be heard as troops sought to finish off the remaining Maute group militants hemmed into a shrinking battle zone.

They swept away trash, rocks and belongings scattered on streets, among them toys of children who fled when the pro-IS rebels ran amok on May 23, setting buildings ablaze and ransacking churches and schools.

Spray painted on the shutter of one abandoned building reads "Maute ISIS," a term used for the militant alliance.

"This is very important for the normalization of Marawi because we are responding to the call for them to return back, so we need to prepare," said Lt. Col. Rosendo Abad, a member of a joint task force in Marawi.

Defense officials said it could take until January before rebuilding can start, with the heart of the city littered with unexploded bombs and booby traps and buildings on the brink of collapse after months of military air strikes.

Military operations have cost P5 billion and the government estimates it could cost 10 times that much to rebuild Marawi.

The government on Tuesday said 20-year "patriotic bonds" would be sold to generate P30 billion.

Australia, the United States, Singapore, Russia, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are among the countries and organizations that have offered to help.

But already close to the front lines of the effort is China, which has donated 47 heavy-duty industrial vehicles, among them excavators, bulldozers, tractors, cement mixers and dump trucks.

Those vehicles are on standby at the port in Iligan City, waiting for the guns to finally go silent before starting the task of restoring the country's only designated Islamic City.

Omarshariff Yassin, an engineer in charge of equipment at the Department of Public Works and Highways, said there was enough skilled manpower, but a lack of machinery.

"Before the Chinese equipment arrived, we have 15 equipment in use. We have 17 units on standby," Yassin said.

"The more, the better. What's happening is we lack equipment so we borrow from other regions. But we really need more," he said.

The sources

In Manila's Congress, a lawmaker suggested the government should tap millions of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as a source of funding for the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"The budget requirements for rebuilding Marawi are simply too big to be loaded on the national budget in one or a few tranches. Reconstruction bonds are really the way to spread out the cost over many years while getting the funds in

the present and near term. We need those funds soon, not later," Kabayan party-list Rep. Ron Salo said.

"The bonds the government plans to float will give local and foreign investors the opportunity to be direct stakeholders in the future of Marawi, Mindanao and in peace and progress for the whole country," he said.

He suggested that bonds in small denominations could be offered to small Filipino investors, including OFWs.

Salo noted that companies that go on initial public offerings or list their shares in the stock exchange allocate a portion of such shares to small investors in denominations as low as P5,000.

He said the government should offer attractive terms to entice potential investors.

Other lawmakers proposed that Congress should create a body that would oversee the reconstruction of the war-devastated city.

Alternatively, they said the President could appoint an officer with Cabinet rank, similar to what then president Benigno Aquino III did to then former senator Panfilo Lacson in the reconstruction efforts of regions struck by Super Typhoon Yolanda in Eastern Visayas.

Salo's colleague Rep. Harry Roque said President Duterte should certify as urgent a bill in the House of Representatives that will pave the way for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"The Tindeg Marawi Bill appropriates P10 billion as supplemental budget specifically earmarked for Marawi City in order to expedite its recovery from the ruins of war and return to ordinary civilian life," Roque said.

Roque has filed two measures – House Bills 5874 (Tindeg Marawi) and 222 (Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Act) – to start the rebuilding of Marawi and its inhabitants.

"The IDP Rights Act, meanwhile, seeks to provide for the protection of rights of IDPs during and after displacement, as well as their return, local integration or resettlement elsewhere," Roque added.

The funds provided by HB 5874 shall be used to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of the siege of Marawi City and for the rehabilitation of destroyed infrastructure, properties and businesses.

Administration lawmakers expressed support for efforts to rehabilitate Marawi and promised full cooperation and financial assistance.

"With the death of the two top terror leaders in the area and our impending victory, we can slowly but surely refocus our energies into rebuilding Marawi. Our troops are expected to stay put for this new mission," Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles said.

Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo expressed her respect for the troops in the battle for Marawi.

The University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) has created a task force to assess possible relocation areas and survey the immediate need for agricultural resources and livelihood training of residents.

The UPLB task force will coordinate with the Department of Agriculture for the supply and transport of nutritional food supplements to displaced residents in the beleaguered city. – With Reuters, Jess Diaz, Delon Porcalla, Rudy Fernandez, Catherine Talavera, Gerry Lee-Gorit

October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATIONAL LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Malaysian militant slain

19 other Islamic State-inspired gunmen killed in Marawi

By **AARON B. RECUEÑO**

A Malaysian militant is believed to be among 20 Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists killed in a

fierce gun battle with elite government troops, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año said Thursday.
Año said the gunfight, which ▶4

started Wednesday till the early morning of Thursday, also resulted in the rescue of some hostages, including a mother and her 15-year-old daughter.

It was the rescued hostages who told the military that Malaysian lecturer-turned-militant Dr. Mahmud Ahmad was among those killed, but officials said they have to confirm the information first.

"Our operations to flush out and deal with terrorist stragglers have been continuing relentlessly since yesterday (Wednesday). Last night's (Wednesday) operations have been very positive. We were able to neutralize 13 rebels and we confirmed this. Early this morning, we were able to get seven more," said Año, who added that six soldiers were wounded.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Task Force Lanao, said the bodies of the 13 slain terrorists have yet to be retrieved from the scene of the gunfight, reason the military could not immediately confirm if Mahmud is among them.

"The 13 killed include those sniper kills. That means that they were in the defensive position but they were hit by snipers so we cannot yet penetrate that defensive position," said Brawner.

Mahmud, also known as Abu Handzalah, is said to be the successor of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon as designated emir of the caliphate that is being planned to be established by the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in Southeast Asia. He is a close associate of Hapilon and funded the Marawi siege, the military said.

Año said that based on the information they received, there are still about 20 remaining hostages under the clutches of the remaining Maute fighters inside Marawi City.

But the military could not give exact details of the remaining numbers of the Maute gunmen they are battling to totally liberate Marawi City, though President Duterte has already declared the liberation of the city with the death of Hapilon and Omar Maute, two top leaders of the militants who occupied city.

Brawner said that although they could not give the exact number of remaining enemies, he said the information given by the freed hostages are very valuable in their operational planning.

Earlier, it was the rescued hostages who reportedly pinpointed the exact location of Hapilon and Maute, which prompted the military to map out the successful operation to kill them.

"We are still trying to determine the remaining number... there was initial information by

the hostages as to how many but not all enemies can be seen," said Brawner.

Resistance

As of Thursday, Brawner said there is still resistance from the Maute gunmen, an indication that there are still remaining fighters putting up a fight.

"There is still resistance. In fact, we can still hear gunshots from the main battle area," said Brawner.

The official said the resistance being shown by the remaining Maute gunmen is organized. But he said the remaining battle zone is less than a hectare.

The Marawi siege, it was recalled, started as an operation to capture Hapilon who was monitored to be in the area on May 23.

The operation yielded negative but it triggered attacks by the Maute forces. The Maute gunmen were later joined by local sympathizers and even foreigners.

Marawi bonds

Meanwhile, the Philippines will start issuing Marawi bonds starting January, 2018, to finance the rehabilitation of the war-torn city, Malacañang said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, during a Palace press briefing, said Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Benjamin Diokno confirmed this development.

Abella also noted that Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has directed the Bureau of Treasury to study the possible issuance of ₱30 billion in bonds after the President originally committed at least ₱20 billion to rehabilitate Marawi.

"The President has committed ample funds to rebuild Marawi and the January bonds will ensure that this pledge is fulfilled," Abella said Thursday morning.

According to the Palace official, the Philippine government is hoping to tap local and global markets, as well as Islamic investors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Middle East.

Abella also assured transparency in the rehabilitation, rebuilding, and reconstruction of Marawi City.

"In this rebuilding, all outlay will be tracked and be posted online and we look with anticipation on the rising of Marawi," he said.

Diokno had earlier said that the DBM has already committed ₱5 billion for the rehabilitation of Marawi City. But he said the government needs to finalize first the rehabilitation plan. (With a report from Argyll B. Geducos)

10 October 2017

The Manila Times

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Hapilon's cousin, 2 others yield in Basilan

BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

S HARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: A relative of slain self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) "emir" and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader Isnilon Hapilon and two followers of bandit leaders Furuji Indama and Nurhasan Jamir have surrendered to the military as combat operations intensify in Basilan.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) spokesman, said Ben Sapilina Sapilin, a cousin of Hapilon, and Rami Ben Sapilin and Muhammad Endeng yielded to the troops in Barangay Macalang, Albarka town on late Tuesday afternoon.

The group of Sapilin also surrendered an M16 A1 rifle, a caliber .30 M1 Garand rifle and an M79 rifle.

Petinglay said Rami Ben, alias Attik, is listed by the Armed Forces

of the Philippines as a follower of Jamiri, while Endeng, alias Abu Rayhad, is a follower of Indama.

Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of the Joint Task Force Basilan, said the surrender was facilitated by operating troops of the 74th Infantry Battalion (74IB) led by 1st Lt. Ali Kagui under Lt. Col. Jonas Templo.

"Sapilin and his companions are currently in the custody of the 74IB for debriefing to be facilitated by our intelligence units," Uy added.

A total of 124 ASG members surrendered to government forces this year, of which 68 yielded in Basilan, 33 in Sulu, 21 in Tawi-Tawi and two in Zamboanga City.

"Our Joint Task Forces will continue to sustain their security operations to bring about the eventual defeat of the Abu Sayyaf operating in the ZamBaSuTa area," said Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., commander of the WestMinCom, referring to Zamboanga, Basilan Sulu and Tawi-Tawi provinces.

"With the neutralization of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, we believe more of the bandits will surrender and return to the fold of law in the coming days," Galvez added.

Meanwhile, another ASG member surrendered last Sunday with three high-powered firearms recovered by the military in Western Mindanao.

Philippine Army's Lt.

Col. Rhenante Salvador of the 45th Infantry Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, said Idam Baraham, alias Aldam, surrendered to their battalion with his Colt M16 Armalite rifle and a long magazine with 20 live rounds of ammunition.

Baraham, 23, is a follower of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Amlon Abdun Abtahi, alias Commander Palo, of Sitio Maglibak, Barangay Buhanganan in Patikul, Sulu.

Elsewhere in Western Mindanao, the composite forces of the 68th Infantry Battalion and the 64th Infantry Battalion recovered three high-powered firearms - a Colt M16A1 rifle, an M1 Garand rifle and an improvised KG9 sub-machine gun - from an Abu Sayyaf cohort in Sumisip.

The firearms were recovered by the troops while on combat strike operations in Barangay Kaum-air also on Tuesday morning.

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INQUIRER

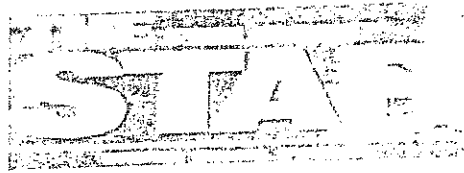
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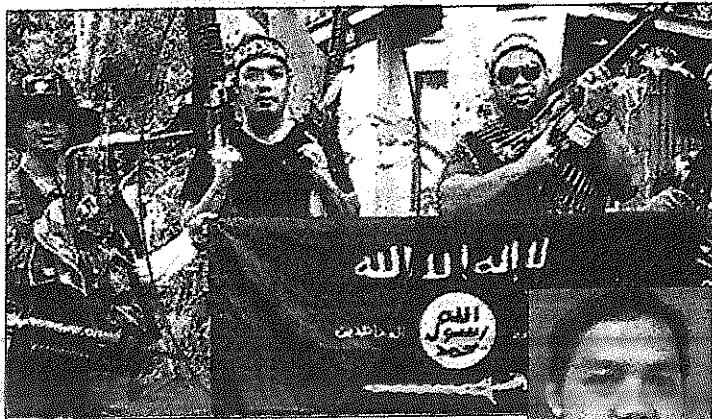
PULLING OUT – Col. Christopher Tampus, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion based in Quezon province, prepares to move out of Marawi City, along with a dog named Martial Law, after a five-month battle against Islamic State-inspired terrorists. —JEFFREY MAITEM

It

20 October 2017



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Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, the alleged financier of the Maute group (center and inset) poses with other Islamic militants in Mindanao.

20 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

SPECIAL REPORT

Quick Marawi rehab to curb terror

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

Conclusion

OFFICIALS agree that the speedy rehabilitation of Marawi City is crucial to restoring the community of hundreds of thousands of residents whose lives had been disrupted by five months of fighting between government troops and the Maute Group.

Datu Abul Khayr Alonto, chairman of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), said rehabilitation efforts in the city and nearby areas would ensure that the reign of terror "will never happen again."

MinDA is one of the government agencies set to lead the reconstruction efforts in the Islamic City. The agency is part of the Task Force Bangon Marawi, and is also one of the members of the sub-committees responsible for health and sanitation; business and livelihood; and resource mobilization.

►RehabA2

"We intend to transform Marawi into a better, more progressive and modern city. Lanao del Sur in the 1960s was the most peaceful province just before martial law was declared," Alonto said.

However, he stressed that while all eyes are on Marawi, the government should not be distracted from its bigger and more crucial aim: to develop the entire Mindanao.

To achieve this, Alonto believes that a shift to a federal form of government will be necessary.

"The systemic shift to federalism can put closure to the Mindanao war. It will spare this country from fragmentation and a fratricidal war of attrition," he said.

MinDA has listed several flagship programs that it intends to accomplish until 2022 - the construction of the Trans Mindanao High Speed Railway System, putting up of the Tawi-Tawi Economic Zone and Freeport, Agro-Economic Cooperative Zone, Mindanao Executive Leadership Development Academy, Mindanao Marine Merchant Naval Academy and School of Oceanography, Mindanao Development Corridor Strategy which includes the Bangsamoro Economic Corridor,

Public and Private Partnership for Development, Renewable Energy Development in Mindanao. Also included in the program is the plan to revive the steel industry in Mindanao, and the development of a cement industry, oil depot and refinery, responsible mining, halal industry and strengthening Islamic financing.

"The Marawi City siege must not deprive the President of the chance to push his commitment to alleviate the economic condition of the Bangsamoro and the national cultural communities and pull them out from the quagmire of poverty and ignorance. Mindanao is ready... today," Alonto said.

He added that the shift to federalism will sustain the reconstruction program in Marawi City and "unleash" the economic potential of Mindanao.

Alonto said he intends "to operationalize the policy directive of President (Rodrigo) Duterte through the 'all Moro convention'."

"This is an inclusive and neutral platform that will ensure the participation of the Bangsamoro and other indigenous peoples in the greater national discourse on federalism," he said.

"In order to end the conflict in Mindanao and institutionalize genuine autonomy for the Bangsamoro, the best alternative that the govern-

ment can provide is the “systemic shift to a federal parliamentary form of government,” he said. “This will unleash the economic potentials of Mindanao and ensure that the region will have an equitable share in the national wealth.”

Alonto said the country should have the same federalism practiced by progressive and successful countries like Germany, Malaysia and Switzerland.

Fix it now

Sen. Juan Miguel “Migz” Zubiri, who hails from Bukidnon in Mindanao, said when it comes to the rehabilitation of Marawi, “time is of the essence.”

“We need to fix this now. We must not wait for the (passage of the proposed P3.7 trillion) budget of 2018. It must be now,” the senator said.

He said displaced residents whose houses were damaged in the months-long clashes should be given financial assistance by the government.

Over 140,000 residents fled the Islamic City on May 23 when the Islamic State-linked Maute group seized Marawi.

“There should be some sort of computation per square meter of the damage to help them repair or rebuild their houses. For example, for partially-damaged house, the

owner must be given P5,000 per square meter. If (the house was) totally damaged, it must be P10,000 per square meter,” Zubiri said.

“So if the totally-damaged house or property is, for example, 100 square meters, (if you compute) 10,000 times 100 square meters, P1 million must be given to the family to rebuild the house. The government has to give that support.”

Zubiri agreed that the peace and order situation in Mindanao might affect the government’s Build, Build, Build program.

“Right now, our tourism industry was severely affected. No tourist wants to visit us due to martial law,” he said. “Right now, we don’t have foreign direct investment. *Walang bagong mga negosyo na itinatayo dahil nga natatakot sila sa sitwasyon na nangyayari* (No one wants to put up new businesses because they fear the current situation).”

“You know, Mindanao is one of the fastest growing regions of the Philippines. And it’s the food basket of the Philippines. If the conflict continues, it will drag down the national economy,” Zubiri said.

The senator said the peace and order problem in Mindanao will affect the country’s growth rate.

“It will slow our tourism growth rate. It will affect the reputation of the Philippines in the international community,” he said.

20 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

NBI: IS widow recruited Indian nationals to fight in Mindanao

By ARGYLL CYRUS S. GEDUCOS

The liberation of Marawi from the clutches of Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists does not mean government can now relax and let its guard down as

there are still some elements trying to extend the life of the rebellion in Marawi City, Malacañang said yesterday. Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella in a press briefing said the government is continuing its efforts to hunt

down individuals who are trying to sow terror in the country. "The arrest of Karen Aizha Hamidon by the agents of the National Bureau of Investigation underscores that we cannot let our guard down ▶ 8

in the fight against terrorism as some remnants of the forces of evil are still at large," Abella said.

"Our efforts to hunt down extremist elements who want to sow fear and terror, and want to maintain peace and order in the community, continue," he added.

Abella urged Filipinos to stay alert and inform authorities of suspicious elements who may be possible threats to public safety.

He explained that it took a while for authorities to arrest Hamidon because the intelligence community was verifying information relayed by the Indian government.

IS recruiter

India's National Intelligence Agency tracked down Hamidon in the Philippines and had been in contact with Philippine authorities since August after obtaining information that she was recruiting Indian nationals to go to Syria and join the Islamic State.

NBI Director Dante Gierran said the 36-year-old widow of slain Ansar Khalifa Philippines (AKP) leader Mohammad Jaafar Maguid said successfully recruited Indian nationals to come to the Philippines and join the radical Islamic extremist groups in Mindanao.

Hamidon, according to Gierran, is also a known associate of Musa Cerantonio, an Australian Islamist preacher who has inspired numerous foreigners to join the ISIS.

Maguid is the principal suspect in the September, 2016 Davao City night market bombing and believed behind the foiled bombing near the United

States Embassy along Roxas Boulevard in December last year.

Maguid who trained under Malaysian terrorist bomb maker Zulkifli bin Hir (Marwan) was killed in Sarangani nine months ago.

Red-handed

Gierran said Hamidon used online messaging applications to recruit foreign terrorists to join the Maute group in Marawi and to fight the government.

Examination on Hamidon's mobile phone showed she made 296 more posts of the same message promoting the rebellion.

The NBI placed her under watch after she posted statements on various public groups in the social media application "Telegram," calling on Muslims to come to the Philippines and join the

fight in Marawi City in order to establish an ISIS wilayah, or province.

On the day of her arrest on October 11 in her house in Taguig city by operatives of the NBI-Counter Terrorism Division (NBI-CTD), she made this post:

"The soldiers of Taghut are desperate to defeat the Muhajireen of the Islamic State of Marawi City... but Wallahi they won't be successful. They won't be able to defeat the force of Dawlah because Allah (Azza wa Jaal is on their side)."

"That is why the Dawlah is once again inviting all our ikhwaanil Muslimeen in all parts of the Philippines and around the world to support our Muhajireen of East Asia. Let us go to Marawi, in Mindanao to join the war against the Conquerors of the soldiers of Tawagheet."

Hamidon is facing 14 counts of inciting a rebellion or insurrection before the Department of Justice.

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Blast pirates, militants out of the sea - Duterte

President Duterte has called on Asian neighbors to take "drastic action," including blasting terrorists and pirates out of the region's shipping lanes.

The President said the dangerous security problem in the Strait of

Malacca must be immediately solved to protect the people and trade in the region.

"The Malacca used to be historically a supply route and a shipping lane that was very good for everybody. Of late, terrorism has entered the picture ► 8

and we see a lot of hijackings and killing of people, and capturing hostages for ransom," he said during a high level forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Pasay City.

"Somehow, I would say that something has - a drastic - a drastic action for a very dangerous situation. Otherwise, that part of the sea lane of trade between Australia going up north and Malaysia itself, Indonesia and the Philippines will continue to suffer the degradations of our trade and even the human being itself," he said.

Duterte said he plans to convince regional leaders to step up maritime cooperation to curb piracy and terrorism in the regional waters.

"I hope to talk with the leaders of these countries and we're willing to put our resources together with theirs to find a solution," said Duterte, currently chair of the ASEAN this year.

"If I get to talk to the leaders, there is one thing that I can just offer, blast them out of the seas to keep our shipping lanes open and safe," he added.

Duterte bemoaned that militants have raided sea vessels, collected ransom money, and "needlessly" executing people. "I think that has to stop," he said.

Duterte said he might direct the military to "redirect" their resources to address the terrorism and piracy following the liberation of Marawi City.

"I just finished the war in Malaysia," he said, mistakenly referring to Marawi City.

"And then perhaps I can refocus the

entire Armed Forces to deal with this problem, once and for all. Otherwise, we might just as well forget our sovereignty and pretend to be a nation by itself," he said.

Meantime, the President also pushed for stronger trade cooperation among ASEAN member-nations to promote growth and development.

He noted that there was "no so much active cooperation" among regional neighbors in terms of trade and commerce.

"We have to do more and there will be a lot of talks about this in the days to come and I will challenge the leaders of the ASEAN in our meeting - in our coming meeting in November," he said.

"If EU (European Union) can do it, the world, why can't we?" he added.

Help solve PH's drug woes

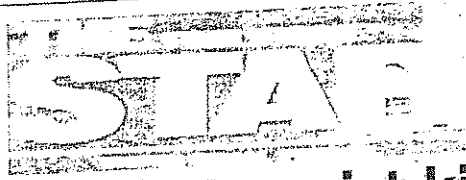
In another front, President Duterte invited the western countries, particularly those in the European Union (EU), to help solve the country's problem on illegal drugs.

Duterte issued the invitation while asking the EU to stop interfering in the country's affairs anew.

In his speech at the High Level Forum on ASEAN@50 in Pasay City, Duterte said he would gladly allow the EU to lead the drug war if they think they can solve the country's drug problem.

"Maybe, you can do it for us. I am inviting you to join the fray. I would be glad to appoint you the lead role in [solving] the problem," Duterte said Thursday evening. (Genalyn D. Kabiling and Argyll B. Geducos)

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Malaysian terrorist killed in Marawi - Duterte

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

President Duterte announced last night that top Malaysian terrorist Mahmud bin Ahmad is dead.

The President confirmed the death of Mahmud at the 43rd Philippine Business Conference in Manila where he was the guest speaker.

"The other, they said Doc - there were three - Hapilon, Omar, and the Doc. I think he's an Arab. He was taken this afternoon. And that completes the story," he said.

Mahmud was believed to have taken over the terrorists in Marawi after the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon who was killed Monday along with Omarkhayam Maute, key leaders of the Maute group.

Asked for confirmation of Mahmud's death, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla said "yes."

"Hostages rescued know who he is and reported he was killed last night," Padilla said.

Mahmud was among the 20 Islamic State-linked Maute extremists killed in the fighting overnight in Marawi City.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año earlier said the bodies of the dead militants, including that of Mahmud, were yet to be retrieved from the battle site.

Government troops killed 13 militants in the fierce firefight late Wednesday and seven more were killed early yesterday.

"The process to confirm this with finality, however, is still ongoing. Earlier information regarding this were received from the rescued hostages," he said.

The troops in Marawi led by Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Lanao, said the ground forces

are having difficulty retrieving the bodies of the killed militants.

He said the troops are meeting stiff resistance from the remaining Maute terrorists.

Mahmud, who used the nom de guerre Abu Handzalah, was a close associate of Maute and Hapilon.

The military said Mahmud had brought together Hapilon and the Maute group and bankrolled the siege of Marawi.

Padilla said six soldiers were slightly injured in the fighting.

Two civilian hostages - a mother and her teenage daughter - were also rescued, he said.

He said the information about Mahmud was based on what the rescued mother and daughter told the military.

Año said the mother and her daughter were rescued in the continuing efforts to clear the main battle area and get the hostages out of harm's way.

"Our operations to flush out and deal with terrorist stragglers have been continuing relentlessly since yesterday," he said.

Año said around 20 hostages remain in the main battle area with soldiers doing their best to rescue them with motivation to finish the battle for Marawi.

Padilla said troops discovered that there may be more militant fighters remaining in a small battle area than earlier estimated.

A security analyst said two more Malaysian extremists in Marawi should be accounted by the military.

Rommel Banlaoi, chairman of Philippine Institute for Peace Violence Terrorism Research, said Malaysians Amin Bacud and Amah Durayne should be located by the troops since they also played vital roles in the siege of Marawi.

-Roel Pareño, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Jose Rodel Clapano, AP

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HAPILON, MAUTE DEATHS

AFP CHIEF SAYS 'QUALIFIED' INFORMANTS TO GET REWARD

MARAWI CITY—The \$5 million that the United States government has offered as bounty for the head of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and the separate reward of P10 million from the Philippine government will go to “qualified, deserving informants,” the Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, said.

Año told reporters on Monday that the reward offer by the United States would be released to informants who led the military to Hapilon after undergoing a process, including

DNA confirmation.

“It will go through a process. We have qualified informants, who are deserving to receive the reward. We will follow the US process,” Año said.

Hostage's info

He did not say who would get the bounty. But Año said the building, where Hapilon and Omar hid, was identified with the help of information from rescued hostages—including a woman who was plucked out of the battle zone a few days earlier.

“The information [from the woman] validated what we already have,” he said.

As for the P10 million offer from the Philippine government for Hapilon's head and the separate P5 million offered for Maute's arrest or death, Año said the process might be easier because authorities had already confirmed the terror leaders' deaths.

“It would be easy for us and they (informants) can get the reward very soon,” he said, without specifying any recipient.

Hapilon, the emir of the

Dawlah Islamiyah in the Philippines, and Maute were killed in an early morning assault by government troops on Oct. 16 as they were trying to escape from the main battle area in Marawi.

Accomplishment

“This is the accomplishment of the whole [Armed Forces of the Philippines], including the Philippine National Police. I do not take it as a single accomplishment. In fact, I cannot do this without the help of our ground commanders,” Año said.

—JEFFREY MAITEM INQ

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The Manila Times

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Pay hike for soldiers still in limbo

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte's promise of doubling the salary of military personnel by January 2018 still hangs, a Palace official admitted Thursday.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the government has yet to find the money for the salary hike, which will be on top of the salary increase given to state workers under the Salary Standardization Law.

"First and foremost you have to understand that the President is acting like a leader. He's an inspirational leader. In other words, he's not a manager who would say, let's look where do we get this first," Abella said.

"He's a person who acts and he trusts that his government will be able to produce. That's exactly why the people voted him because they see in him hope; to be able to transform the structure which they have already rejected," he added.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno had said that the promised doubling of salary for military personnel by January 2018 will be fulfilled if the

administration's proposed tax reform bill that seeks to increase the excise tax on petroleum products and sugar-sweetened beverages is passed into law.

The House has approved the said measure but it was stalled in the Senate.

The Senate's version of the tax reform bill will only generate P60 billion based on the estimates of the Finance department. The House version is expected to raise at least P133 billion in revenues.

Diokno had said that the wage hike for soldiers and policemen will be a combination of increases in their basic salary and allowances so that the government will not incur additional costs in paying the pension of retired uniformed personnel.

Asked if the President's promise to soldiers will be fulfilled, Abella could not give a categorical answer.

"We have to wait until the numbers are in. With due diligence, it will be done. We just have to trust the processes," he told reporters.

LLANESCA T. PANTI

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LONGEST IN THE PHILIPPINES

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URBAN WAR DEVASTATES MARAWI

MARAWI CITY—At first glance, the endless rows of devastated buildings could be the aftermath of a great earthquake. But the punctured, bullet-riddled walls tell the true story of the Philippines' longest urban war.

"No one wanted this to happen," President Duterte said on Tuesday as he declared Marawi City "liberated from the terrorists' influence" after a nearly five-month battle with gunmen loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group.

A day earlier troops had tracked down and killed the IS "emir" for Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon, one of the leaders of the terrorists who seized large parts of the city on May 23 to establish a province of the jihadist group in the region.

The battle for Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, lasted more than four times longer than the US-led campaign to liberate Manila from Japanese World War II occupation forces in 1945.

In the process, the military literally destroyed Marawi to save it from gunmen it says were intent on carving out territory for a Southeast Asian caliphate.

Riddled with bullet holes

An Agence France-Presse (AFP) team saw metal shutters and walls pockmarked with bullet holes, pavements piled high with twisted metal and cannibalized cars, and streets strewn with machine-gun slugs.

The scenes evoked pictures of destruction in war-torn Middle Eastern cities like Aleppo, Mosul and Raqqa.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana estimates the government will need \$1.1 billion to rebuild the city.

On the ground floor of some buildings, soldiers peered warily at the street through holes just big enough for men to crawl through.

These gaps are evidence that the terrorists, estimated by military officials to have numbered 1,000, brought in a new style of urban warfare that initially flummoxed government troops.

Maze of improvised tunnels

The gunmen from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terror groups blasted ratholes through walls to turn hundreds of densely built buildings in the city center into a maze of improvised tunnels to evade relentless airstrikes as well as US and Australian spy planes and drones.

They seized hostages, using some as human shields and others as cooks, medics, or gravediggers for dead gunmen.

They also forced captives to loot houses for cash and weapons and even to fight alongside them, the military said.

"These terrorists are using combat tactics that we've seen in the Middle East," the US Pacific Command chief, Adm. Harry Harris, told a security forum in Singapore on Tuesday.

Foreign fighters

The battle for Marawi also marked the first time that IS-inspired forces had banded together to fight on such a scale in the region, he added.

Of the more than 1,000 dead, the military and the police lost 164 men, with more than a thousand soldiers wounded in house-to-house combat.

Most were hit by improvised explosive devices, snipers and firebombs, as well as

shoulder-fired rockets used against armored vehicles.

Forty-seven civilians were killed, while nearly 400,000 others fled their homes, according to official tallies.

Following his speech in Marawi, Mr. Duterte apologized to the region's displaced residents.

The authorities said they believed the gunmen, some of them foreign fighters from nearby Malaysia and Indonesia or as far as Chechnya, stockpiled weapons and food for weeks and possibly months before seizing Marawi.

The militants also turned mosques, off-limits to airstrikes and artillery, into sniper's nests, munitions depots and hiding places, authorities said.

"At the start we were surprised because we were used to fighting in the mountains and areas away from population centers," Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said in a radio interview on Wednesday.

Adapting to enemy tactics

The troops gradually adapted to the new enemy's tactics while acquiring better-suited equipment, including sniper rifles and armored vehicles, he added.

At least 882 terrorists were killed, the military said, with fighting continuing on Wednesday at a district near the shore of nearby Lake Lanao.

The military said the gunmen had used the large lake as a supply route for food, fuel, weapons and manpower.

It then became an escape route as the security noose tightened on them in recent weeks.

—AFP

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Marawi: City destroyed in PH's longest urban war

MARAWI (AFP) - At first glance, the endless rows of devastated buildings could be the aftermath of a great earthquake. But the punctured, bullet-riddled walls tell the true story of the Philippines' longest urban war.

"No one wanted this to happen," President Duterte said on Tuesday as he declared Marawi City "liberated from the terrorists' influence" after a nearly five-month battle with gunmen loyal to the Islamic State group.

A day earlier troops had tracked down and killed the Islamic State "emir" for Southeast Asia - Isnilon Hapilon, leader of the militants.

The battle for the southern city, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, lasted more than four times longer than the US-led campaign to liberate Manila from Japanese World War II occupation forces.

In the process, the military literally destroyed Marawi to save it from gunmen it says are intent on carving out territory for a Southeast Asian caliphate.

An AFP team saw metal shutters and walls pockmarked with bullet holes, pavements piled high with twisted metal and cannibalised cars, and streets strewn with machine-gun slugs.

The scenes evoked pictures of destruction in war-torn Middle Eastern cities like Aleppo and Mosul.

New urban warfare
Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana estimates the government will

need \$1.1 billion to rebuild the city. On the ground floor of some buildings, soldiers peered warily at the street through holes just big enough for men to crawl through.

These gaps are evidence that the militants who seized the city on May 23 - estimated by military officials to have numbered one thousand - brought in a new style of urban warfare that initially flummoxed Filipino troops.

The militants blasted rat holes through walls to turn hundreds of densely built buildings in the city centre into a maze of improvised tunnels to evade relentless air strikes as well as US and Australian spy planes and drones.

They seized hostages, using some as human shields and others as cooks, medics, or grave diggers for dead gunmen.

They also forced captives to loot houses for cash and weapons and even to fight alongside them, the military said.

"These terrorists are using combat tactics that we've seen in the Middle East," US Pacific Command chief Admiral Harry Harris told a security forum in Singapore on Tuesday.

It also marked the first time that IS-inspired forces had banded together to fight on such a scale in the region, he added.

Foreign fighters
Of the more than 1,000 dead, the Philippine military and police lost 164 men, with more than a thousand soldiers wounded in house-to-house

combat.

Most were hit by improvised explosive devices, snipers and firebombs, as well as shoulder-fired rockets used against armored vehicles.

Forty-seven civilians were killed, while nearly 400,000 others fled their homes, according to official tallies.

Following his speech in Marawi, Duterte apologized to the region's displaced residents. "We did not wish this on you... but the circumstances really compelled us to act," he said in the eastern city of Pili.

The authorities said they believed the gunmen - some of them foreign fighters from nearby Malaysia and Indonesia or as far as Chechnya - stockpiled weapons and food for weeks and possibly months before seizing the city.

The militants also turned mosques, off-limits to air strikes and artillery, into sniper's nests, munitions depots and hiding places, authorities said.

"At the start we were surprised because we were used to fighting in

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20 Maute stragglers killed

Malaysian terrorist believed to be among fatalities

BY VICTOR REYES

TWENTY more remnants of the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group in Marawi City have been killed in assaults conducted by government forces on the terrorists' lairs in Marawi City.

A prominent Malaysian terrorist, Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad alias Dr. Mahmud, is believed to be among those killed in the assaults Wednesday night and early morning yesterday.

Ahmad is said to become the IS point man in Southeast Asia. He

was one of six to eight foreigners left fighting with the Maute remnants in Marawi.

Two hostages were also rescued in the operations.

Prior to Wednesday night's fighting, military officials said about 30 Maute men were still inside the main battle area, holding about 20 hostages.

Marawi was declared by President Duterte free of "terrorist influence" last Tuesday, almost five months since the Maute attacked the city on May 23. The declaration came a day after Maute

Group leader Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon, a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf and supposed anointed IS leader for Southeast Asia, were killed.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said 13 of the new fatalities, including Ahmad, were killed Wednesday night in the continuing efforts to flush out the Maute stragglers.

"Early this morning, we were able to get seven more and rescued a mother and her daughter. She (daughter) is about 15 or 16 years old. She has a splinter

wound but out of danger," Año also said.

Año said six soldiers were wounded in the Wednesday fighting, but most of them are in safe condition as their injuries were superficial.

Information on the death of Mahmud came from one of the rescued hostages, and the military is "working on getting full confirmation," Año said.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military's Joint

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MALAYSIAN

Task Force Banao, said, "We cannot say definitely if Dr. Mahmud was among those killed... There was a revelation (about Mahmud's death). We have to confirm this," he said.

"There is a big possibility that Dr Mahmud is among them... But we will only be definite once we have a match of probably DNA samples, maybe of the dental records," he also said.

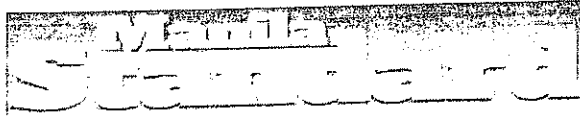
If confirmed, Mahmud's death would be a blow to any effort by Islamic State, which is on the back foot in Syria and Iraq, to establish a presence in Mindanao.

The Marawi siege has been the Philippines' biggest security crisis in years, but some experts see it as a prelude to a more ambitious bid by militants to exploit Mindanao's poverty and use its jungles and mountains as a base to train, recruit and launch attacks in the region.

Mahmud was seen in a video alongside Hapilon and the Maute brothers plotting the Marawi siege. Security experts say he studied in Pakistan and learned to make bombs in an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan. He left Malaysia in 2014.

Brawner said the Maute members continue to put up resistance. He also said the Maute members are constricted in an area less than a hectare area in size. The main battle area has 15 to 20 small structures. — *With Reuters*

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Marawi walls tell of long, urban war

By Cecil Morella, AFP

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Marawi...

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says are intent on carving out territory for a Southeast Asian caliphate.

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Of the more than 1,000 dead, the military and police lost 164 men, with more than a thousand soldiers were wounded in house-to-house combat. **With AFP**

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Marawi starts its long cleanup

MARAWI CITY. – War might still be raging in the ruins of this city, but the cleanup has already begun.

Under the guard of dozens of police and soldiers, about 100 of the 200,000 residents driven from their homes during 150 days of fighting have returned to start what will be a massive operation to clear the city of the debris of war.

Army trucks crawled through the deserted streets to take displaced people to safe areas of Marawi, where echoes of gunfire and explosions could still be heard as troops sought to finish off the remaining Maute group militants hemmed into a shrinking battle zone.

They swept away trash, rocks and belongings scattered on streets, among them toys of children who fled when the pro-Islamic State rebels ran amok on May 23, setting buildings ablaze and ransacking churches and schools.

Spray painted on the shutter

of one abandoned building reads “Maute ISIS,” a term used for the militant alliance.

“This is very important for the normalization of Marawi because we are responding to the call for them to return back, so we need to prepare,” said Lt. Col. Rosendo Abad of a joint task force.

Defense officials say it could take until January before rebuilding can start, with the heart of the city littered with unexploded bombs and booby traps and buildings on the brink of collapse after months of government air strikes.

Military operations have cost P5 billion (\$97 million) and the government estimates it could be 10 times that much to rebuild Marawi.

The government on Tuesday said 20-year “patriotic bonds” would be sold to generate P30 billion.

Australia, the United States, Singapore, Russia, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are among the countries and orga-

nizations that have offered to help.

But already close to the front lines of the effort is China, which has donated 47 heavy-duty industrial vehicles, among them excavators, bulldozers, tractors, cement mixers and dump trucks.

Those vehicles are on standby at the port in nearby Iligan City, waiting for the guns to finally go silent before starting the task of restoring the country’s only designated Islamic City.

Omarshariff Yassin, an engineer in charge of equipment at the Department of Public Works and Highways, said there was enough skilled manpower, but a lack of machinery.

“Before the Chinese equipment arrived, we have 15 equipment in use. We have 17 units on standby,” he said.

“The more, the better. What’s happening is we lack equipment so we borrow from other regions. But we really need more.” – Reuters

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Abu Sayyaf in 2000 kidnapping arrested

BY VICTOR REYES

A MEMBER of the Abu Sayyaf group linked to the kidnapping of 21 hostages, mostly Europeans, in Malaysia in 17 years ago was arrested by government forces in Zamboanga City last Monday, the military reported yesterday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said Mansur Radallan, 37, yielded a rifle and bomb components when arrested by members of the military's Joint Task Force Zamboanga and the Zamboanga City police at around 4:25 a.m. Monday along Manggal Drive in Barangay Baliwasan.

Petinglay said Radallan had arrest warrants in connection with the April 2000 kidnapping in Sipadan, Malaysia, where the Abu Sayyaf seized 20 hostages, mostly Europeans.

The victims were later brought by their captors to Sulu - a known bailiwick province of the Abu Sayyaf - where they were all subsequently released after payment of hefty amount of ransom.

Petinglay said Radallan was also involved in the failed abduction of Armando Iturralde, a brother of Zamboanga City Vice Mayor Cesar Iturralde, in Barangay Talon-Talon in Zamboanga City in 2015.

Petinglay also said 82 Abu Sayyaf members have been arrested in Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City since last January.

Wesmincom commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said the military is exerting its best efforts to rid the entire Zamboanga Peninsula of the Abu Sayyaf which is notorious for kidnapping for ransom activities and beheading of its hostages.

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'NO CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS'

NOT ENOUGH MILITARY SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY GOV'T—CHIZ

President Rodrigo Duterte does not have enough support in the military to establish a revolutionary government, Sen. Francis Escudero said on Thursday.

Escudero said talks about establishing a revolutionary government have “no constitutional basis.” If at all, he added, this would be “extra-constitutional” since this is not allowed under the 1987 Constitution.

“That can only be done if he has the total support of the Armed Forces, which I think he does not have,” he told reporters at the press forum, Kapihan sa Senado.

Escudero, however, re-

called that then President Corazon C. Aquino established a revolutionary government that lasted for a year and a half after the February 1986 People Power Revolution that toppled strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

He noted that Ms. Aquino also abrogated the 1973 Constitution and appointed a Constitutional Commission to craft a new Charter, which was ratified in February 1987.

President Duterte warned that he would declare a revolutionary government if his critics' attempt to destabilize the government escalated and caused trouble. —PHILIP C. TUBEZA INQ

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PUNCHLINE

Marawi liberation, rehab on; war on drugs OK but...



By **FRED LOBO**

PRESIDENT Duterte has declared Marawi City as "liberated" from ISIS-affiliated militants and Maute rebels after a five-month siege and standoff.

"I hereby declare Marawi City liberated from terrorist influence," The Punisher triumphantly said.

"This marks the beginning of rehabilitation of Marawi," the President declared while visiting the city in southern Philippines.

Good news and a challenge to a nation that has apparently grown tired of the siege and provocation.

Gen. Eduardo Ano, chief of staff of the AFP, told reporters that a small number of 20 to 30 militants remain in a small area of the city.

Just a law enforcement matter and mopping-up operations against those militants should continue, he said.

The declaration of "Marawi liberation" was a "strategic statement,"

Marawi City.
Yes to help from our friends.

Meanwhile, Filipinos said they are satisfied with Duterte's war on drugs but dislike unnecessary killings and remain fearful in their communities, according to the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

Translation: Sustain war on drugs but check lapses, other woes.

SWS said that Duterte's figures has remained high at 77 percent, with public satisfaction showing only a 7 percent drop from 84 percent in September 2016.

Pinoys still like DU30 but hate "shabu," "tulak," and "adik-adik."

SWS Deputy Director Vladymir Joseph Licudine said that the war on drugs was the primary reason given by respondents why they were satisfied with Mr. Duterte.

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a military commander said.

"We want to tell the world that the Maute-ISIS problem is over. They cannot be victorious anymore. It's about to be over," said Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the Joint Task Group Lanao

General Ano noted that 150 days since the Philippines army launched an operation to flush them out, more than 800 militants and 162 government security forces had been killed.

The violence forced more than 350,000 residents to flee the city as their homes were reduced to rubble by militant fire and air strike.

The World Bank has confirmed its commitment to work with the Philippine government in helping war-torn Marawi City.

Time to rise from devastation!

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said that World Bank Chief Executive Officer Kristalina Georgieva has committed to provide technical aid and other forms of assistance to the Philippines to help rebuild

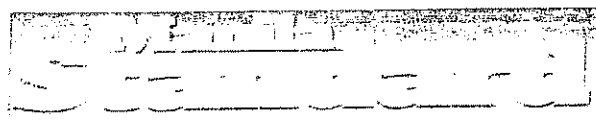
"The drug war was their number one reason for their satisfaction with PRRD," he confirmed.

However, Licudine said the drug war was also the No. 1 reason the respondents were "dissatisfied with PRRD because there are so many deaths."

Compromise solution: Continue checking drug problem but also check unnecessary violence and killings.

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Victory in Marawi



VIRTUAL REALITY
TONY LOPEZ

IT TOOK the latest in war technology, more than P50 billion in cost, and a longer time frame—four months and three weeks—to score victory in Marawi against insurgents wanting to establish a caliphate and a hub for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in Southeast Asia, but the victory was sweet and decisive just the same. And Southeast Asia could heave a sigh of relief with the apparent mortal blow to ISIS's expansionary ambitions in the region, home to some 240-million Muslims.

When the insurrection erupted on May 23, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte was making a state visit in Moscow. He promptly declared martial law and cut short his visit to two days and the same night flew to

Mindanao to oversee the counter terrorism operation.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, a retired general, initially placed the number of terrorists at no more than 50 and indicated the counter-terrorism would be finished in a matter of days. The military failed to reckon with the support of local officials in Marawi and nearby provinces and the seeming sympathy of residents. Duterte himself declared later the siege of Marawi was funded by illegal drugs money, principally from the criminal syndicate Maute group.

Wearing gear ready for combat and an aviator's dark glasses, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte made his seventh visit to balmy Marawi on Oct. 17, 2017. Amid cheers and tears, the commander-in-chief declared the war-torn city's liberation from terrorists.

His declaration came on

the heels of the death of terrorist leaders, Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute. The President also announced that the liberation of Marawi City marks the start of the rehabilitation process of the war-torn city.

The President commended the military and the police for risking their lives fighting terrorists. He led the distribution of groceries, wrist watches, and sunglasses to government troops. He also gave them new pistols.

Joining the presidential victory sojourn were Defense Secretary Lorenzana, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año, Philippine Army Commander Major General Rolando Bautista, Philippine National Police Director-General Ronald dela Rosa, and Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence Go.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare Marawi City liberated from the terrorist influence that marks the beginning of rehabilitation for the people," the Duterte said in Marawi, a day after Maute terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute were killed by sniper fire using thermal technology by government troops.

"Wag na natin itong ulitin kailanman. Sa panahon ko, hindi ako papayag. Government must have access dito sa loob," an exultant commander-in-chief declared.

Duterte expressed gratitude to the government troops.

He also lauded the military and the police for their bravery.

"Maraming salamat at maligaya kaming mga Pilipino sa inyo. Mabuhay! Mabuhay! Mabuhay ang Armed Forces pati police! Matatapang, lalo na sa babae," Duterte said.

According to government data, nearly 1,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including more than 800 enemies, 47 civilians and 163 government troops since the rebellion started in May.

Immeasurable is the long-term damage done to Marawi and nearby provinces. And has the ISIS been really stopped in its track as it marches and marauds through Southeast Asia and the rest of Asia?

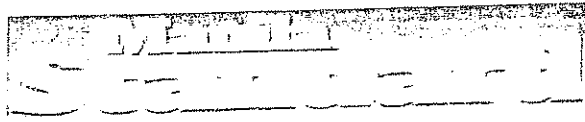
The President was also concerned about the government's wounded security personnel.

"Mga minahal kong sundalo, pulis, ang problema ko ang nasugatan ngayon. Marami 'yan. 'Yung iba nabaldado," he said.

"I can guarantee you. Sinasabi ko na sa inyo ngayon, walang iwanan. Ipuwesto ko silang lahat," the President said.

biznewsasia@gmail.com

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Funding the Marawi rehab

WITH the virtual liberation of Marawi City, the Philippines must now initiate a quick massive rehabilitation plan involving the reconstruction of the entire Muslim capital in the south. The reconstruction will require billions of pesos as fighting in the city practically razed all building structures in the area.

The government this early plans to float so-called patriotic bonds in January next year to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the war-torn city. It also sought assistance from

large-scale rebuilding effort on the part of the government.

The rebuilding may call for a Marshall Plan type of program in which the US government gave over \$13 billion in economic support to help rebuild Western European economies after the end of World War II. The initiative, named after US Secretary of State George Marshall, who served as the US Army Chief of Staff during WW II, rebuilt war-devastated regions in Europe, modernized industry and contained the spread of communism.

Rebuilding Marawi City may have a similar tone in the sense that its reconstruction will not be exclusive and inevitably include the whole of

the World Bank, which has the experience and expertise in reconstructing similar areas that suffered heavy damage from war and conflicts.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has conceded that the Philippines alone may not get the job done. The city's reconstruction, for one, is complicated. Many returning residents are informal settlers living in multi-story structures and have no ownership title to show.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III acknowledged the daunting task ahead. The extent of the damage sustained by Marawi and the large number of displaced citizens because of the rebellion, he says, required a well-coordinated,

Mindanao. The job at the same time must support peace-building efforts in Mindanao and eliminate the root of rebellion in the south.

The World Bank noted that the "scaled-up program for the entire Mindanao will focus on supporting the government's program to raise agricultural productivity and improve connectivity from farm to market; boost education, skills, and employability of the youth; and help build resilient communities."

Mindanao's economy, including that of Marawi City, should be the focus of the rehabilitation. Providing jobs and raising the income of the population will quiet the discontent in the region.

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Leyte Gulf Landings commemoration to highlight bravery of veterans

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 19): **Leyte Gulf Landings commemoration to highlight bravery of veterans**

Leyte province will hold a simple celebration of the 73rd anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landings on Friday with several foreign dignitaries coming to remember the historic event which ended the Japanese occupation in the country.

Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorezana will not make it to the celebration but he will be represented by Lt. Gen Oscar Lactao, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command, according to the provincial government.

To deliver solidarity messages are Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines John Holmes, Australian Embassy to the Philippines Deputy Chief of Mission Mathieson Kimberley, and US Embassy in Manila Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Klecheski.

From the Japanese Embassy, joining the commemorative program are Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of Political Section Minister Takehiro Kano and First Secretary and Defense Attaché Mr. Kazunobu Akutsu.

Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla said several activities had been lined up to celebrate the country's liberation from Japanese occupation during the World War II and recognize the heroism of war veterans.

"We have to remember the veterans' bravery, their gallantry, and their love for the nation. We should learn from them. After these years, we still have many battles to win such as poverty, criminality and drugs, diseases, teenage pregnancy and human trafficking," Petilla said on Thursday.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf is remembered as the largest naval battle ever fought in modern history. It was fought in four separate engagements near the islands of Leyte, Samar and Luzon from October 23 to 26 in 1944.

"This is one of the biggest events in Leyte province. In our tourism and our trade, we mainly promote Leyte with the theme of Leyte Gulf Landings, but beyond tourism what is more important is the message, of what had happened 73 years ago," Petilla said.

On Oct. 20, 1944, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, as the head of the largest US fleet of transport and warships, and accompanied by Commonwealth President Sergio Osmeña and Gen Carlos P. Romulo, landed at Red Beach of this town to reclaim the Philippines from the Japanese.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

www.pna.gov.ph

Army holds more peace fora in south Palawan towns

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 19): Army holds more peace fora in south Palawan towns

The 18th Special Forces Company (SFC) of the Philippine Army (PA) on Wednesday again led a security forum in southern Palawan to further strengthen the military's ties with the locals and to maintain momentum in the fight against insurgency.

The forum for security, which was held in the far-flung municipality of Rizal, was an offshoot of two similar activities organized by the Joint Task Group South (JTGS) on May 16 and on October 3 this year, said Captain Wanel Ansa, environment unit and civil military officer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-4 (MBLT-4) on Thursday.

Captain Anthony Macatual, commander of 18th SFC, headed the first-ever security forum in Barangay Punta Baja, Rizal in partnership with the municipal government and other local stakeholders.

Ansa said the forum engaged the said town's business sector, discussing with them updates on the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CNN), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), crime index, and other action plans.

"Rizal Mayor Norman Ong also delivered his message and answered questions during the open forum. He gave emphasis on the LGUs projects and programs to address the current security threats," said Ansa.

Lt. Col. Danilo Facundo, commanding officer of MBL-4 and head of the JTGS, was at the event and expressed his appreciation to the organizers, partners, and participants.

He appealed to the audience "to strengthen relationships and cooperation through information sharing," emphasizing that "security is a shared responsibility and that everybody must do their part to support the economic development of Rizal."

Jose P. Rizal, a first class town in the southern part of Palawan, has a population of 50,096 people, based on a 2010 census.

Prior to its creation as a separate municipality, the place was known as Tarumpitao Point and was part of the town of Quezon.

www.pna.gov.ph

BIFF harassment foiled in Maguindanao

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 19): **BIFF harassment foiled in Maguindanao**

Government troops foiled an attempt by an outlawed armed group to overrun an Army detachment in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao past midnight Thursday.

Capt. John Arvin Encinas, Army's 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said an undetermined number of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) attempted to attack the Alpha Company Detachment of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Meta at around 1 a.m.

"They just wanted to show they are still a force to reckon with," said Encinas.

At present, soldiers manning detachments along the Cotabato-Maguindanao-Isulan, Sultan Kudarat highway have been placed on heightened alert following the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute in Marawi City.

Encinas said prior to the attack, soldiers using night vision devices noticed movement of people in the dark and moving toward the Army base.

This prompted the government forces to open fire and a brief encounter ensued. Nobody was hurt on the government side but Encinas could not say if the attackers suffered casualties.

The foiled attack came after joint Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) arrested Tuesday a BIFF bomb expert and seized from him bomb-making materials.

On Wednesday, soldiers belonging to the 22nd Mechanized Company of 2nd Mechanized Battalion also recovered high-powered guns and ammunition from a certain BIFF Commander Abunawas Bayawak.

On the same day, joint police and military operatives raided the house of a Maguindanao town councilor but missed him.

Sr. Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), backed by the Provincial Public Safety Battalion, had raided the house of Councilor Jayton Dimaukom of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao, but was not in his home during the operation.

The councilor is a brother of Datu Saudi Ampatuan Mayor Samsudin Dimaukom who was killed in an anti-drug police operation in Makilala, North Cotabato, last year.

Armed with the search warrant issued by Regional Trial Court Branch 13, Tello said the raiding units search Dimaukom's house and found an unlicensed cal. 45 pistol and ammunition.

Police and CIDG operatives said the raid was conducted after intelligence reports confirmed he was keeping unlicensed guns.

Dimaukom is the chair of Barangay Salbo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao and president of the local Association of Barangay Captains. He sits in the town council as ex-officio member.