

Army Vision: By 2128, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

21 October 2017

Saturday

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

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

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No to anti-RA75 campaign!

Gov't serves notice to end MRT maintenance deal

Heroic

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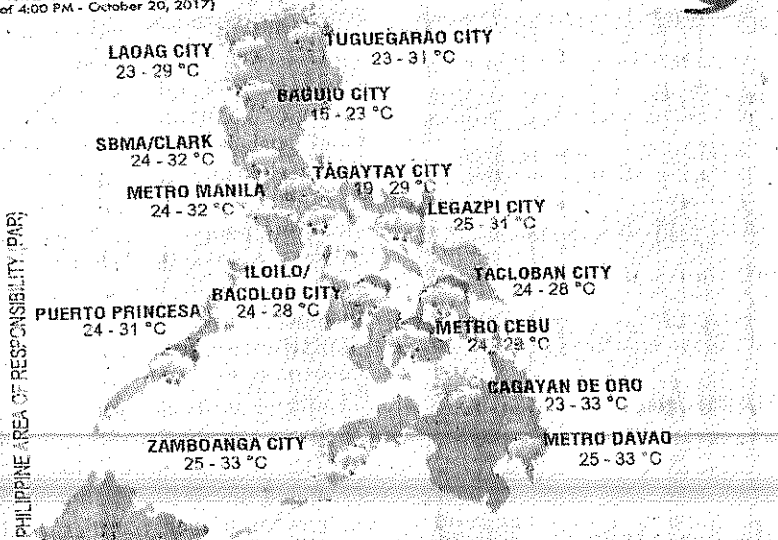






PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 21, 2017 | SATURDAY

TYPHOON "PADLO"
640 KM EAST OF BASCO, BATANES
(As of 4:00 PM - October 20, 2017)





PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:49 AM	5:33 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:50 AM	5:47 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
OCT 26 3:12 AM	OCT 28 6:23 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
(MANILA SOUTH HARBOR)	
5:12 AM 0.14 Meter	10:49 PM 0.97 Meter

☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

☁☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms


☁☁☁ Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	OCT 22	OCT 23	OCT 22	OCT 23	OCT 22	OCT 23		
METRO MANILA	☁ 25-32°C	☁ 24-32°C	TAGAYTAY	☁ 19-29°C	☁ 19-29°C	TACLOBAN	☁ 24-31°C	☁ 24-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	☁ 23-32°C	☁ 23-32°C	LEGAZPI	☁ 25-32°C	☁ 25-32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	☁ 23-32°C	☁ 24-33°C
LAOAG	☁ 23-31°C	☁ 23-29°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	☁ 24-32°C	☁ 25-31°C	METRO DAVAO	☁ 25-34°C	☁ 25-34°C
BAGUIO	☁ 15-24°C	☁ 16-24°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	☁ 24-31°C	☁ 24-32°C	ZAMBOANGA	☁ 25-33°C	☁ 25-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	☁ 24-32°C	☁ 24-33°C	METRO CEBU	☁ 24-32°C	☁ 25-33°C	 		



DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM



PILIPINAS HD

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

21 October 2017

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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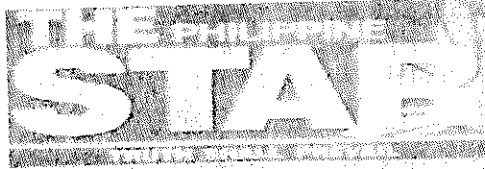
COMING HOME: A soldier from one of the first battalions to be deployed in Marawi is welcomed by his family at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City yesterday. AP

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AFP starts Marawi pullout

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Amid sporadic gunfire, the military began withdrawing forces from Marawi City yesterday, giving a battalion of troops a joyful sendoff following the successful mission to defeat Islamic State-linked Maute extremists.

The Army's 1st Infantry Battalion (1IB) was the first to pull out from war-torn Marawi after nearly five months of urban warfare that often involved close quarters combat, vastly different from the jungle warfare for which they were trained.

They were among the first batch of government troops that fought the Maute terrorists in the early stage of the siege in late May.

Sporadic fighting continued in the city even as the 1IB troops looked forward to a respite from the desolate war scene of smoldering buildings and houses.

The troops led by Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus said the

war in Marawi was their most difficult mission.

Even as Tampus and his men were preparing to pull out, other military units pressed their assault against the militants.

Officers used loudspeakers to urge the militants, many of them positioned in a bullet-pocked two-story building, to surrender. The building stands on a pier by the lake near a large gunfire-scarred welcome sign that says "I (love) Marawi."

Troops from the Army's 15th Scout Ranger Company rescued 10 more hostages yesterday and took 11 other individuals for questioning.

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Residents wave at government troops leaving Marawi yesterday after their five-month combat duty against Maute terrorists.

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AFP From Page 1

Officials said they have to determine if they were hostages or civilian sympathizers or supporters of the Maute group.

The military said there were about 20 civilian hostages among an estimated 20 fighters still holding out with 39 of their family members.

President Duterte visited the Islamic city on Tuesday and announced its liberation, sparking hopes that hundreds of thousands of residents could begin returning home.

The speed of their return, however, will depend on how quickly the city is declared safe and free of militants.

The President made the visit a day after the key leaders of the siege, Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute, were killed in a gunbattle.

Their deaths were the turning point that partly convinced Duterte that he could declare Marawi liberated from the Maute, officials said.

Volunteers and displaced residents have begun a government-led cleanup in neighborhoods that were declared safe. Power has been restored in more than half of the lake-side city, along with water supply, officials said.

Western Mindanao Com-

mand (Westmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. led the sendoff ceremony and gave awards to the officers and men of the 11B.

Galvez awarded the Silver Cross Medals to Tampus and the three company commanders of the 11B during the ceremony held at Joint Task Force Lanao camp.

"Maintain the highest dignity of a soldier. As much as we want to have you here, we need to let you go. Our oath is to serve the people and maintain the integrity of our country," Galvez told the troops.

Troops of the 11B led the successful rescue of 34 hostages from the Maute terrorists. The military had rescued a total of 1,761 civilians since the fighting broke out in Marawi on May 23.

Galvez thanked the troops for their service during the sendoff formation amidst a drizzle yesterday morning.

"I am so proud of you," Galvez said, choking as he spoke.

Tampus, for his part, presented the complete report of their mission accomplishment to Galvez and Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi.

Before departure, Tampus ordered his troops to do a

"shakedown inspection" by stripping off their equipment and personal belongings in a gesture to show that no one among his men took "souvenirs" and booty from the battle scene.

The troops are to return to their headquarters in Tanay, Rizal today for a brief rest before undergoing training as part of the augmentation force to secure the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in November.

Assessment

The pullout in Marawi signified the confidence of the military that the threat of the IS in the country has diminished after its key leaders were taken out of play.

With the government victory over the Maute group, Armed Forces spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the Philippines has made a global contribution to the fall of the IS in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

"We see that their influence will continue to wane and their ability to put up sizable forces to control and gain hold of territories will almost be nil because of these events," Padilla said in a press briefing at Malacañang yesterday.

While IS-inspired groups such as the Maute remain a threat, Padilla said they have been diminished with the kill-



Johan Peralta waves a Philippine flag as troops, one of the first battalions to be deployed to Marawi, arrive to a hero's welcome at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City yesterday. AP

ing of key leaders.

"So by and large, there still remains a threat from this group, but not in the magnitude that we have seen in the Middle East nor in the scale by which we have confronted Marawi. This is our assessment," he said.

Padilla said there would be no letup in the military

campaign against homegrown terror groups used by IS to propagate Islamic radicalism in southern Philippines.

"But the most dangerous thing here that may come out is, their remaining network, which may consist of as few as one or two, may still impose a degree of threat in many parts of the world,

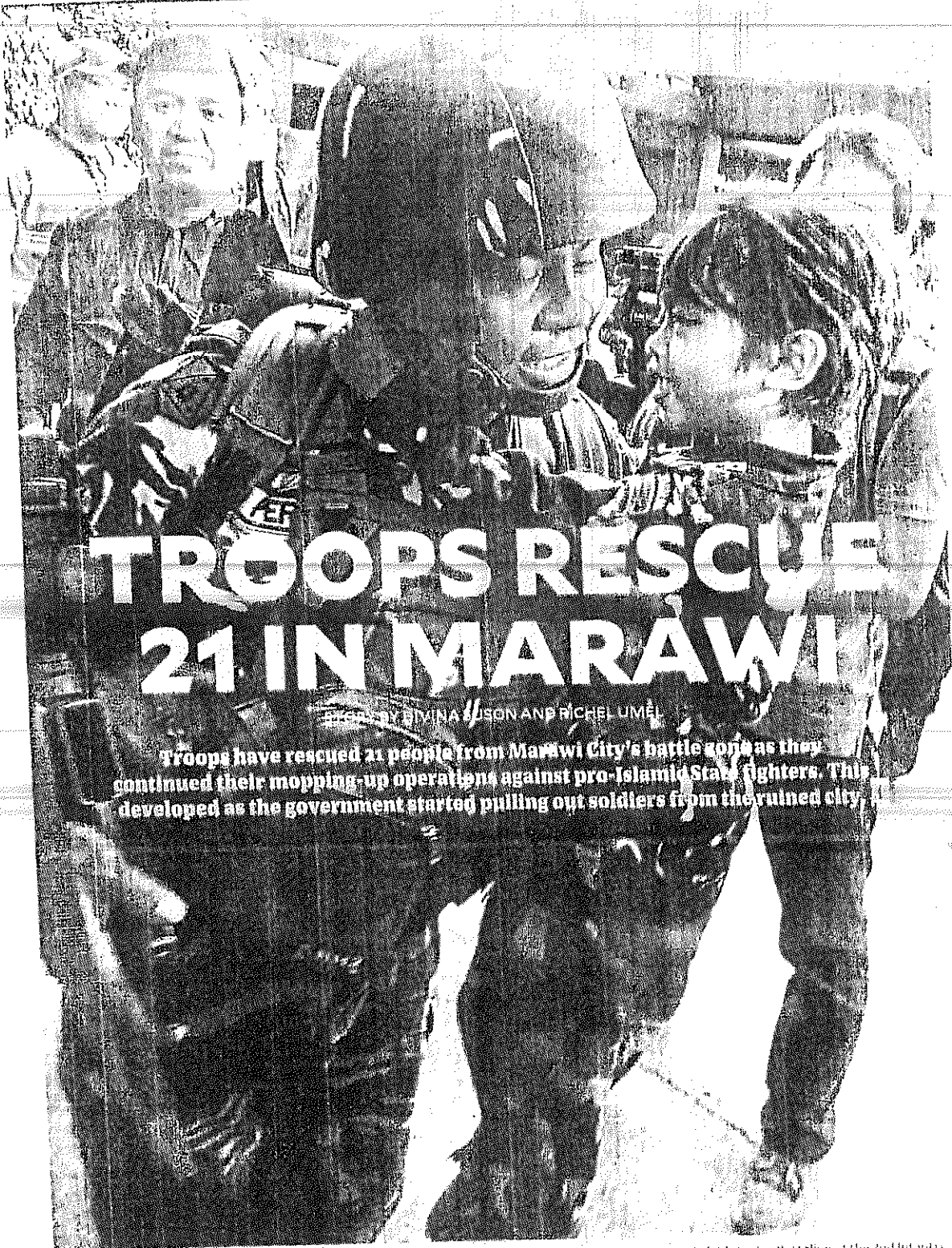
not only in the Philippines," Padilla said.

"And you have seen things happening in Europe, Great Britain, regarding lone wolf type attacks. And these are the kind of threats that may come out. So it is imperative that we all still continue to work together." – **With Christina Mendez, AP**

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INQUIRER

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TROOPS RESCUE 21 IN MARAWI

REPORT BY RIVINA ALJON AND RICHEL UMEL

Troops have rescued 21 people from Marawi City's battle zone as they continued their mopping-up operations against pro-Islamic State fighters. This developed as the government started pulling out soldiers from the ruined city.

TROOPS WITH CARE – Private First Class John Peralta gets a big hug from a young child as the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Battalion of the 7th Infantry Division arrives from Marawi at Millamor Air Base in Pasay City after President Duterte's declaration of the Islamic city's liberation. (RICHARD A. REYES)

Troops rescue 21 in Marawi

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FROM A1

By Divina Suson
and Richel Umel
@Team_Inquirer

MARAWI CITY—Government troops have rescued 21 people from the battle zone in Marawi City as they continued pursuing remnants of the pro-Islamic State (IS) fighters following the deaths of three key militant leaders, the military said on Friday.

Ten of those rescued from the battlefield on Thursday were confirmed to have been held hostage by the militants, while the rest would still undergo assessment and validation, the military said.

In Manila, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the 11 others were being processed to check whether they were IS fighters.

Brig. Gen. Roseller Murillo, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Marawi, said those confirmed to be former hostages were six children and four women who ran toward soldiers during a gunfight while waving a white cloth to signify they were noncombatants.

They were undergoing debriefing and medical examination, he said.

Murillo said the operation inside the main battle area was intended to finish off IS stragglers, but did not say how many of them were left.

"The force and alliance of the remaining fighters are already insignificant but we have to finish them all," Murillo said.

The top two leaders of the group, Isnilon Hapilon, the IS group's "emir" in Southeast Asia, and Omar Maute, were killed in a dawn raid on Monday.



GUN SALUTE The family of a returning soldier welcomes their hero with posters and flags at Villamor Air Base. —RICHARD A. REYES

The following day, President Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi.

The would-be successor to Hapilon and their group's suspected financier, Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, was believed to be among 13 fighters who were killed on Wednesday.

Hapilon carried a \$5-million reward on his head from the United States, while Maute, one of two brothers at the helm of the Maute terrorist clan of Lanao del Sur province, had a P5-million bounty from the government.

"Our troops are continuing their assault," Army Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. said on Thursday after his news conference was disrupted by loud explosions reverberating from the final area of battle, about 2 kilometers away.

While troops pressed their assault with artillery and gunfire, officers used loudspeakers to urge the militants, many of them positioned in a bullet-pocked two-story building, to surrender. The building stands

on a pier by the lake near a huge gunfire-scarred welcome sign that says "I (love) Marawi."

The surprise occupation of the city by local pro-IS groups backed by foreign fighters set off alarms in Southeast Asia. Analysts said parts of the southern Philippines were at risk of becoming a new base for IS as it lost territory to international forces in Iraq and Syria.

Padilla, however, told a briefing in Malacañang that following its defeat in Syria and its allies thwarted from putting up a "wilayah," or IS province, in Marawi, the influence of the IS group would continue to wane.

The terrorists could still launch strikes, including lone wolf attacks, Padilla warned.

"So by and large, there still remains a threat from this group, but not in the magnitude that we have seen in the Middle East nor in the scale by which we have confronted in Marawi. This is our assessment," he said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND AP INQ

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DEBUNKING RESIDENTS' CLAIMS

NO LOOTED ITEMS FOUND IN SOLDIERS' STUFF

By **Allan Nawal**
and **Richel Umel**
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Battle-weary troops from the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion had their belongings undergo rigid inspection before they left Marawi on Friday amid complaints that they may have looted some of the houses abandoned by residents who fled the city as soldiers battled pro-Islamic State (IS) fighters.

"This [inspection] would counter those claims," said their commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus.

"Me and my soldiers only had our personal belongings and our firearms. The battalion in itself was only bringing out what we had brought in, including supplies that we got while we were here," Tampus said.

No stolen items, however, were discovered after the inspection.

The battalion based in Infanta town, Quezon province, was among the first Army groups that were deployed

from Luzon to help fight the IS militants who laid siege to Marawi on May 23.

The militants were led by IS "emir" for Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon, who was killed along with Omar Maute, on Monday. The next day President Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi and the start of the city's rehabilitation.

Tampus and his soldiers arrived on June 1 and were tasked to regain control of the bridge at the water pumping station near City Hall and the Masiu Bridge in the village of Raya Madaya.

He said he and 374 of his men were returning to their base where they would be trained for security duties for next month's summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila.

He lost one soldier in the fighting and 11 were wounded, he said.

"Ours is a feeling of fulfillment because we have served the country and the people in this most trying and difficult time," Tampus said.

He said they were leaving Marawi with pride and a clean conscience.

"We came here to serve," Tampus said.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Group Lanao, had earlier admitted that some soldiers were caught with items that did not belong to them.

"They have been recalled and restricted to barracks and are now facing investigation and summary dismissal proceedings," Brawner said.

He said their immediate superiors were being investigated as well under the principle of command responsibility.

Tampus said his troops helped restore peace and stability in Marawi "for the next generation to cherish."

"With the full support of President Duterte and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I am proud to say my troops were part of the team Army with modern fighting equipment that contributed to the success of the fight and to liberate Marawi," he said. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Troops pull out of Marawi for much-needed break, training for next mission

By **GENALYN D. KABILING,**
NONGY E. LACSON,
and **ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**

The military has started to pull out some soldiers from Marawi City following President Duterte's declaration of the liberation of the war-torn place from terrorist influence.

Armed Forces spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr said the 1st Infantry Battalion (1st IB) has been sent off for their "much-needed break" and eventual training for their next assignment after an almost five-month tour of duty in Marawi.

The military unit, led by Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, has received **▶ 6**

← A KISS FOR DAD – Army Private First Class John Peralta gets a kiss from his four-year-old son Johan moments after Peralta arrived at Villamor Airbase in Pasay City from Marawi City Friday. Peralta's unit, the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion 2 Infantry division, was pulled out after a five-month deployment in Marawi. (All Vicoy)



Troops pull out of Marawi... ◀1

the Silver Cross Medal and a Command Plaque from the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) for the safe rescue of 34 hostages, according to Padilla. It was one of the first military teams deployed to Marawi following the deadly siege of Islamic State (IS)-linked militants last May.

“As we see the endgame of the armed hostilities inside Marawi, we will be shifting our forces to other areas for their required training and for their scheduled battalion or unit activities,” Padilla said during a Palace news conference.

“They will also be going back to Luzon for a much-needed break and for their long-delayed training in Fort Magsaysay and in other camps of the Philippine Army to enhance their skills and prepare them for their next mission,” he added.

He said the 1st IB would be replaced by another unit of the Joint Task Group Ranao under Brigadier General Rami Rey.

More soldiers are also expected to be pulled out from Marawi for another assignment.

“There will be other units that will be leaving Marawi after the 1st Infantry Battalion, and the basis for their departure from Marawi will be, as I mentioned earlier, if you came in first, you will be the first to leave,” Padilla said.

“And most of this will be dependent also in the key sector or areas in Marawi that they are holding. If these are relatively safe, then we will free up our units to depart,” he added.

Padilla, meantime, assured that the pullout of some soldiers does not mean the military was compromising the security of Marawi City.

“We are actually leaving other units to ensure the continuity of security coverage even during the process of the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and rebuilding of Marawi,” he said.

Job well done

Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez Jr., WestMinCom commander,

also awarded the 1st IB the Command plaque.

In his message to the troops, Galvez said: “Maintain the highest dignity of a soldier. As much as we want to have you here, we need to let you go. Our oath is to serve the people and maintain the integrity of our country.”

Tampus also rendered a completeness report to the WestMinCom commander and Major General Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi.

“I laud the men and women of the 1st Infantry Battalion for their dedicated service and for being here at the onset of the Marawi siege. My gratitude to you for a job well done,” said Pamonag.

A showdown inspection was also conducted during the said ceremony.

1st IB is set to travel back to Luzon islands for an impending unit enhancement training.

“Thank you for your dedicated service,” said Lt. Gen Galvez Jr. to the troops of the “Always First” Battalion while they were in formation on a drizzling morning in Marawi.

“I am so proud of you,” the WestMinCom Chief added.

Marawi liberation

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is hoping to fully clear Marawi City of the remaining terrorists within the next two days.

Padilla said the full liberation of Marawi is possible within the next few days given the recent positive developments on the ground.

“With the number of hostages that has been rescued in the last 24 hours, we look forward to getting the rest of the hostages that still remain and addressing the armed threat that still exists,” he said during the Mindanao Hour/Bangon Marawi press briefing Friday.

“And we are praying that this be today or the following day. We are giving it our best and we’re doing all that we can so that we can end these

hostilities in this part of Marawi,” he added.

According to Padilla, there still are about half-a-hectare of conflict area remaining and few more buildings left to be cleared.

Based on the recent record of the AFP, the number of enemies killed now stands at 897 while the number of civilians killed remain at 47 and the rescued civilians is now at 1,777.

However, Padilla noted that a soldier was killed during one of the assaults in the remaining areas where stragglers are still holed up.

Martial law

Padilla said martial law is still needed in Mindanao so they can fully address the threat of terrorism in Mindanao.

President Duterte had earlier said that martial law in Mindanao will not be lifted until the last terrorist is taken out.

Padilla said that for now, they are working on the timeline provided to them, which is until December 31, 2017, or the last day of the martial law extension granted by Congress.

“Ang gagawin natin diyan (What we will be doing with that) is address the remaining networks. We’re very appreciative of the declaration of the President because we really need it to address the threats, particularly in Mindanao,” he added.

According to Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, the deaths of Hapilon, Maute and Ahmad do not automatically result in the lifting of martial law.

“There are remnants, including networks supporting the Maute cause within Mindanao. The President is duty-bound not to compromise public safety,” Abella said during the same press briefing.

According to the Palace official, Duterte will confer with the members of his Cabinet on the necessary action to be taken.

Padilla also said that residents of Marawi City are still not allowed inside the war-torn city as there are still remnants of the terrorist groups and some ordnance to be cleared.

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President Duterte salutes members of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion as they prepare to leave the Laguindingan Airport yesterday. Soldiers of the 1B were among the first to be deployed in Marawi when the battle against the terrorists broke out almost five months ago.

21 October 2017

The Manila Times

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BACK ALIVE Members of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion are greeted by family members and friends upon their arrival on Friday at Villamor Air Base. PHOTO BY BOY JO SUE



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21 October 2017

THE PHILIPPINE
TRIBUNE

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'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED'

Military starts to pull out some troops from Marawi

By Mario J. Mallari

Government security forces have started pulling out from Marawi, a few days after President Rodrigo Duterte declared the liberation of the Islamic city following a five-month siege laid by Islamic State-inspired terrorists —

signaling the start of massive rehabilitation in the war-torn city.

The Army's 1st Infantry Battalion (IB), led by Lt. Col. Christopher Campus, yesterday was sent back to Lazon after more than five months of fighting the terrorists in Marawi City.

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Back to Manila Government troops arrive from Marawi at Villamor Airbase in Manila yesterday. Pro-IS gunmen occupied parts of Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 and has claimed more than 1,000 lives and displaced 400,000.

Military starts to pull out some troops from Marawi

From page 1

A heroes' welcome was set by the Army leadership upon the arrival of the 1st IB troops in Manila.

The 1st IB was among the Army battalions sent to Marawi City immediately after the IS-inspired terrorists started the siege last May 23. It was the first unit to be pulled out from Marawi City after its liberation.

During their deployment at the main battle area, elements of the 1st IB managed to rescue 34 hostages from the IS-inspired terrorists and recovered assorted high, powered and low powered firearms.

The battalion lost a soldier while 13 others were wounded during their mission.

In a simple sendoff ceremony held at Camp Ranao, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command, expressed gratitude to the members of 1st IB.

"Thank you for your dedicated service," said Galvez, adding "I am so proud of you."

Galvez awarded Tampus and three other 1st IB officers with Silver Cross Medals for their contribution to the liberation of Marawi City.

A Command Plaque was also given to the 1st IB as a unit.

"Maintain the highest dignity of a soldier. As much as we want to have you here, we need to let you

go. Our oath is to serve the people and maintain the integrity of our country," Galvez said.

Six military battalions will stay in Marawi while its rehabilitation is ongoing, he added.

Still cautious

Joint Task Group Ranao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., for his part, said the military is set to allow residents to return to their homes in 24 villages located inside the main battle area, which are controlled by the government, in December.

No specific dates, however, were reached as the evacuees' return would still depend on the security situation in the areas.

Currently, clearing operations are ongoing to ensure that the area is free from unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by the terrorists following concerns about potential fresh infiltration of militants.

The Office of the Civil Defense has earlier reported that of 465,674 individuals displaced by the armed conflict, only 27,000 persons were in various evacuation centers in Iligan City and in two Lanao provinces since the rest of the evacuees were in the homes of their relatives in nearby municipalities.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, commended the 1st IB for a "job well done."

"I laud the men and women of the 1st Infantry Battalion for their

dedicated service and for being here at the onset of the Marawi siege. My gratitude to you for a job well done," he added.

On Tuesday, Mr. Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi City – a day after government troops killed Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia, and Omarhayam Maute, one of the dreaded Maute brothers and leader of the Maute Group.

A follow-up operation led to the killing of Malaysian Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad on Wednesday night, along with 12 other terrorists.

The President on Thursday night confirmed that Ahmad, tipped to become the new leader of the IS in Southeast Asia had been killed.

"Now the other (one), the one they called 'Doc' – there are three: Hapilon, Omar and the Doc – he was taken this afternoon, and that completes the story," Mr. Duterte told a business conference.

A DNA test would later be conducted on the body, military spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla told reporters.

Following Hapilon's death, terrorism expert Ahmad Kumar Ramakrishna from Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies said if Mahmoud survived he would likely have taken over the leadership of IS-linked fighters in Mindanao.

"He was the one responsible for the direct linkage of Hapilon to the

larger group of the Daesh (another term for IS). It was he who provided the funding necessary to bankroll the siege of Marawi," Padilla has said.

The Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict described Mahmoud as a former university lecturer who sat on the "inner circle of the Marawi command structure."

"Mahmoud controlled recruitment as well as financing and has been the contact person for any foreigner wanting to join the pro-ISIS coalition in the Philippines," stated the July report.

Foreign fighters

Of the more than 1,000 dead, the military and police lost 154 men, with more than a thousand soldiers wounded in house-to-house combat.

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

Mr. Duterte earlier apologized to the region's displaced residents.

"We did not wish this on you... but the circumstances really compelled us to act."

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, they added. AFP

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The Manila Times

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WestMinCom sends-off troops after regaining Marawi City

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: The Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) gave a rousing but sentimental send-off to troops of the 1st Infantry Battalion (1stIB) on Friday morning in Camp Ranao, Marawi City.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., WestMinCom commander, awarded a Silver Cross Medal to Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus and three other company commanders of the 1stIB, as well as a Command plaque.

"Maintain the highest dignity of a soldier. As much as we want to have you here, we need to let you go. Our oath is to serve the people and maintain the integrity of our country," Galvez said.

"Thank you for your dedicated service. I am so proud of you," Galvez told the troops of the "Always First" Battalion while they were stayed in formation on a drizzling morning in Marawi.

Tampus also rendered a completeness

report to the WestMinCom commander and Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of Joint Task Force Marawi.

"I laud the men and women of the 1st Infantry Battalion for their dedicated service and for being here at the onset of the Marawi siege. My gratitude to you for a job well done," Pamonag said.

The unit was among the 1st battalions to reinforce the soldiers in Marawi during the early stage of fighting.

It was also responsible for the rescue of 34 hostages of the Maute terror group and the recovery of assorted high-powered firearms.

A showdown inspection was also conducted during the ceremony.

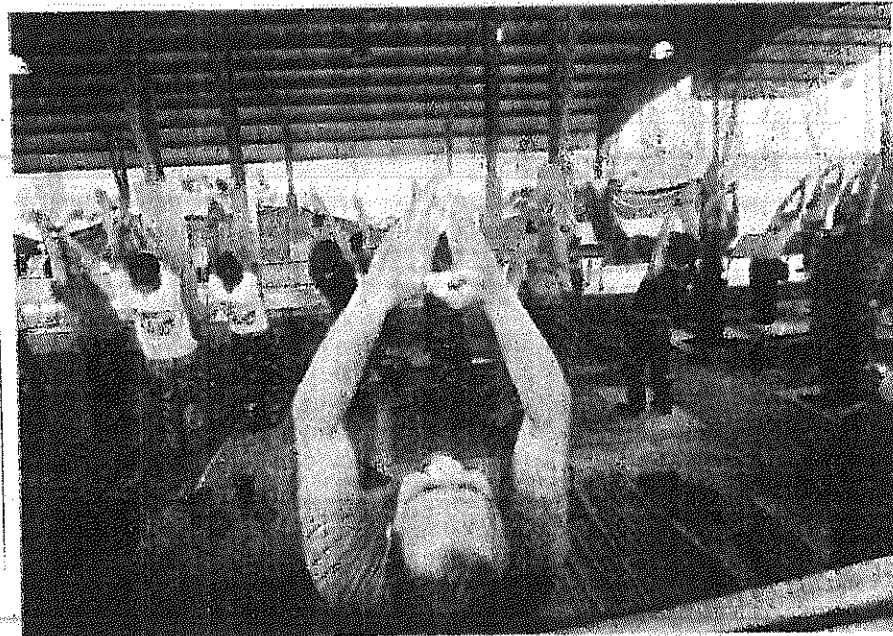
The 1stIB was set to travel back to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal for a unit enhancement training.

JULMUNIRI JANNARAL

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PEACE OF MIND – Elite Scout Rangers from the Second Scout Ranger Battalion undergo Combat and Operational Stress Management sessions for unwinding, relaxation, and debriefing with psychologists from the Center of Psychological Extension and Research Services (COPERS) as part of the exit procedures from Marawi City. (Keith Bacongco)

21 October 2017



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5 soldiers hurt in BIFF attack

MAGUINDANAO – Five soldiers were wounded in a grenade explosion in Shariff Aguak town on Thursday night.

Suspected members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) hurled the grenade in front of an Army detachment in Barangay Labo-Labo, initial investigation showed.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, 6th Infantry Division commander, said the attack could be in retaliation for the death of BIFF members Narolam Kasan and his brother Saiden, sons of a BIFF commander, in a military offensive in Shariff Saidona earlier that day.

Soldiers launched an artillery attack on a suspected BIFF lair in Barangay Pagatin 1 after villagers reported the presence of armed men. – John Unson

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MANILA BULLETIN
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AFP uncovers 4 NPA supply depots in Ilocos

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

SANTA CRUZ, Ilocos Sur – The Philippine Army's 81st Infantry Battalion yesterday bared that it uncovered supply depots of the New People's Army (NPA) in four areas in the seconde district of Ilocos Sur last week.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio C. Osias IV, the commander of the 81st Infantry Battalion, confirmed on Friday the discovery of the NPA's supply depots through the support from the residents, who claimed to be former NPA sympathizers.

"Responding to the reports of the NPA supporters or 'Masa' who happened to be elected local officials, our troopers have successfully dug four supply depots of NPA rebels," Osias said.

"Following our series of combat operations that resulted to the encounters between our troops and NPA rebels, some local officials in areas of Ilocos Sur (whose names are withheld

for security reasons) who admitted that they supported the NPA rebels before, shifted their allegiance to the government security forces and reported locations of the supply depots that serve as NPA's prepositions of goods," he added.

The supply depots, which had stocks of rice and other food items, were uncovered in Barangays Sorioan and Ubbog in Salcedo town, Barangay Tablac in Candon City and Barangay Buliclic in the municipality of Sta. Lucia.

"With all our efforts, we have convinced these local officials who admitted their support to NPAs before to work with us in ending the insurgency problem that affected their socio-economic activities," Osias said.

"Their information were so accurate since they were the ones entrusted by NPAs to keep watch of the goods," he added.

He also said that "We believed that these supplies came from NPA's extortion activities in the area of Ilocos Sur."

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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3 Russian warships sa Maynila

20 ARMY TRUCKS, 5K RIFLES, 1M BALA BIGAY SA AFP!

DUMATING kahapon sa bansa ang tatlong Russian navy ships para sa isang goodwill visit mula October 20 hanggang October 26.

Ang tatlong barko na bahagi ng Russian Pacific fleet ay ang dalawang large anti-submarine ships na Admiral Panteleyev, at Admiral Vinogradov, at ang large sea tanker na BORIS BUTOMA.

Sinalubong ang Russian

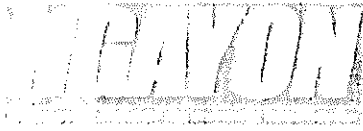
navy ships sa bahagi ng ng Corregidor island ng BRP Rajah Humabon, bago dumuong sa Pier 15, South Harbor, Manila.

Ang goodwill visit ay kasabay ng pag-turnover sa Pilipinas ng donasyong Russian military equip-

ment na binubuo ng 5,000 unit na Kalashnikov rifles, 1 milyong bala at 20 army trucks sa October 25.

Kasabay din ito ng official visit sa Pilipinas ni Russian Defense Minister Sergey K. Shoygu para lumahok sa 4th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

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Pahina. 7

2 top leader ng CPP-NPA natimbog

Dalawang mataas na lider ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) ang nasakote ng pinagsanib na elemento ng militar at pulisya sa isinagawang operasyon sa Brgy. Dulao, Bago City, Negros Occidental kamakalawa ng hapon.

Kinilala ni Capt. Ruel Llanes, Civil Military Operations Officer ng 303rd Infantry Brigade ng Philippine Army (PA), ang mga nasakoteng suspek ay sina Aurora Cayon alyas Ka Lilay at Louie Antonio Martinez alyas Ka Louie Castro; pawang sa lungsod ng Kabankalan. Sila ay kapwa

national staff ng CPP-NPA na kumikilos sa lalawigan at mga karatig na lugar.

Bandang ala-1:30 ng hapon kamakalawa nang masakote ng pinagsanib na elemento ng PA at PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) 6 ang dalawang communist leader sa naturang lugar.

Ayon naman kay Supt. Gilbert Gorero, spokesman ng Police Regional Office (PRO) 6, inaresto ang mga suspek sa bisa ng warrant of arrest na inisyu ng korte sa kasong arson, robbery at multiple attempted murder. Nakumpiska mula sa dalawa ang isang cal 45 pistol na may apat na bala at isang granada. **Joy Cantos**

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ROAD TO NORMALCY

AS BATTLE RAGES, MARAWI STARTS LONG CLEANUP

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

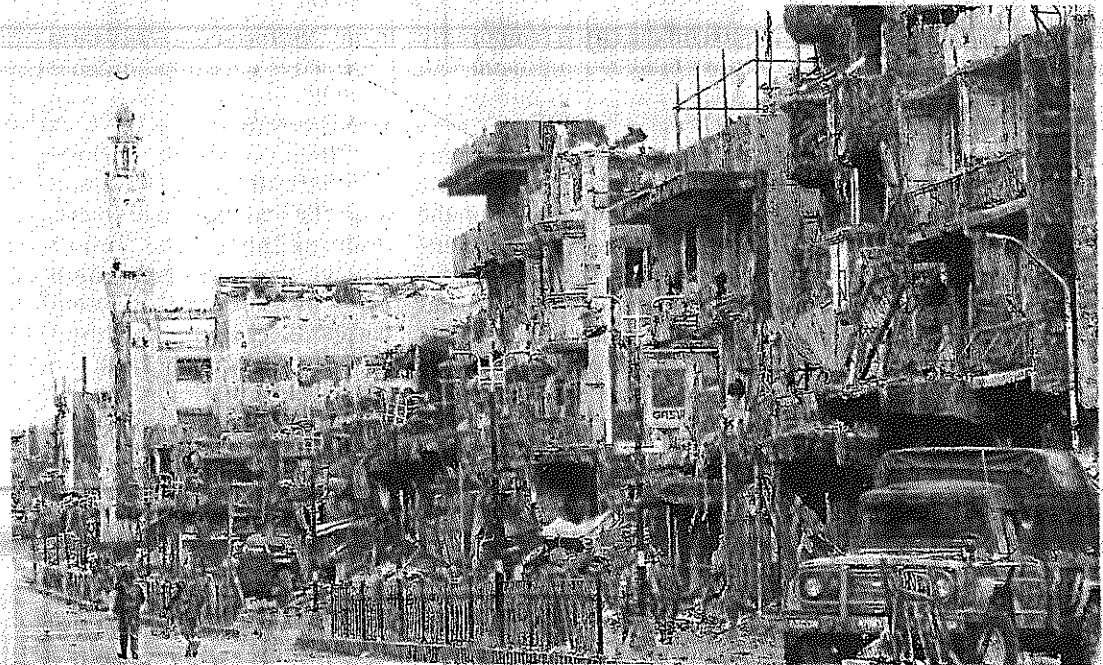
Under the guard of dozens of policemen and soldiers, about 100 of the 200,000 residents driven from their homes during 150 days of fighting have returned to start what will be a massive operation to clear the city of the debris of war.

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 groups laid siege to the city on May 23, setting buildings ablaze, and ransacking churches and schools.

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

Military and defense officials have said it could take until January before rebuilding could 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.



JEFFREY MAITEM

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

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 nearby Iligan City, waiting for the guns to finally go silent before starting the task of restoring the country's



Rebuilding Marawi City will take years to finish, but authorities start by clearing debris in areas unaffected by fighting.

—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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. —REUTERS

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PLENTY AND ON TIME

DUTERTE GIVES SPECIAL THANKS TO CHINA IN MARAWI CRISIS

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte has thanked the United States, China and Israel for their help in fighting pro-Islamic State (IS) militants in Marawi City, expressing special appreciation to Beijing for its assistance early in the conflict.

"It was only China who gave it on time and plenty, plenty," Mr. Duterte said in a speech at the 43rd Philippine Business Conference that was attended by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua.

Mr. Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi on Tuesday, a day after troops killed Isnilon Hapilon, the "emir" of the IS group in Southeast Asia, and Omar Maute, a leader of the Maute group that laid siege to Marawi on May 23 with Hapilon's Abu Sayyaf faction.

"I would like to officially inform you, Ambassador Zhao, that the rifle that killed Hapilon was a sniper rifle made in China," he said.

The military has yet to confirm if a China-made rifle was used to shoot Hapilon.

In June, the Philippines re-

ceived Chinese-made assault and sniper rifles worth P370 million. Another shipment of rifles and ammunition donated by China arrived early this month.

The June and the October shipments were given to the Philippine National Police, except for the sniper rifles which went to the military.

The President failed to mention assistance from Australia, one of the Philippines' military allies, which flew surveillance flights over the Marawi war zone along with US spy planes.

He said the Americans and the Israelis only allowed Filipino troops to use their equipment without leaving them behind.

"They are not willing to give it to us unlike China—no payment," he said. "The thought of helping us was something that was useful to the community of the world."

Unlike his predecessor, Mr. Duterte has warmed up ties with China. He said early in his administration he would lean more toward China and Russia than to the US, the Philippines' security treaty ally. INQ

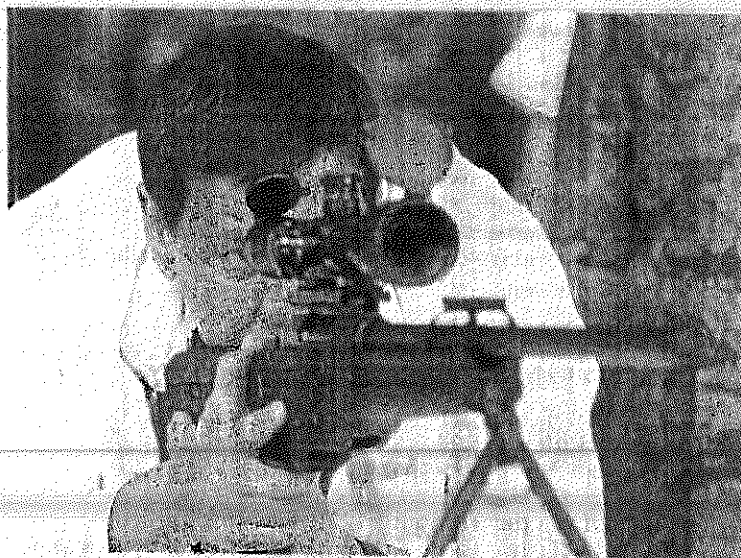
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INQUIRER

SCOUT RANGERS' VERSION

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SOLDIERS DISPUTE DUTERTE CLAIM CHINA GUN KILLED HAPILON



President Duterte looks through the scope of a sniper rifle donated by China during the turnover in Clark in June. —JOAN BONDOC

President Duterte was eager to credit Beijing with the death of terrorist leader Isnilon Hapilon in Marawi City recently, saying it was a Chinese rifle that fired the bullet that finished off the Islamic State's (IS) "emir" in Southeast Asia.

The smoking gun that took out the region's most feared militant on Monday was one of the 100 sniper rifles donated by China, Mr. Duterte said, although the Army Scout Ranger unit conducting the operation said the shot was fired from a heavier weapon mounted on an armored vehicle.

The President is a huge fan of the Chinese rifles and took a pot-shot himself in the direction of the

terrorists in Marawi City recently.

Addressing businessmen and diplomats, he singled out Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua for his country's support that led to the crucial killing.

"I would like to officially inform you, Ambassador Zhao, that the rifle that killed Hapilon was a sniper rifle made in China," Duterte announced late on Thursday, to warm applause from the crowd.

But the version of the final hours of the life of Hapilon and Maute group leader, Omarhayam Maute, posted on the Facebook page of a member of the Army Scout Rangers, tells a different story.

The blow-by-blow account

on "Scout Ranger Books," posted the day Hapilon was killed, tells of how members of the 8th Scout Ranger Company engaged the terrorists. They were not aware that the IS leaders were among those they killed until fleeing hostages told them.

Operating at night, the Rangers used thermal imaging on an M113 armored vehicle, and the shot that killed Hapilon came from a gun mounted on top of it, according to the account. No mention was made of Chinese weapons or snipers.

Prior to Mr. Duterte's remarks, two soldiers in that vehicle told CNN Philippines that the fixed weapon was remote-controlled. A general in Marawi

in command of the armored assets said the fixed weapon mounted on the M113 was a 50 caliber machine gun.

The President has made a big effort to befriend China and has frequently praised its leadership while in contrast, chiding defense treaty ally the United States, its biggest source of weapons and expertise, for what he calls hypocrisy and for treating his country "like a dog."

Asked which gun killed Hapilon, Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao, said he could not say for sure, as troops had used guns made by the United States, China and other countries. —REUTERS

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INQUIRER

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Military allows return of ID'd Marawi folk

By Jeffrey Maitem
@InquirerMindanao

MARAWI CITY—The military on Thursday said that it would allow the return of Marawi City residents whose houses were destroyed by airstrikes and shellings during nearly five months of fighting between government forces and pro-Islamic State (IS) terrorists, but they would have to be properly identified.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao, told reporters on Thursday that residents in 24 villages that were on the front-line of the fighting could visit

their homes from Dec. 15 to 22. The dates, however, might be changed, depending on the security situation, he added.

Returning to villages

Brawner said residents from 72 other villages, mostly situated in areas that had been under military and police control, started returning this week.

Marawi, a mosque-studded center of Islamic faith in the Philippines, was devastated by the siege by the militants who waved IS-style black flags and hung them on buildings they had occupied in its business district and outlying areas.

The insurrection prompted

the military to launch a ground offensive and air strikes, with the United States and Australia later backing the troops by deploying surveillance aircraft.

Brawner said Marawi Mayor Majul Usman Gandamra suggested the implementation of an ID system for the residents, which the military would strictly enforce.

"The village officials themselves recommended it to ensure there will be no other people who can penetrate their villages. In fact, the other village officials are implementing it already," Brawner said.

Under the new ID system, identification cards would be is-

sued to persons who had received a certification from barangay officials that they were bona fide residents of the village. The barangay officials would base their certifications from the local census data and list of verified voters.

Properly identified

Residents who had returned home in areas that were not affected by the fighting had been properly identified by their village officials.

"The military respects the local officials. The governor and mayor are functioning, and very soon we can resume the operations of different offices," he

said. "Not only the residents but the government offices will be coming back to Marawi City."

He said the return of residents would be allowed only after the completion of a four-phase program.

The first would be the cleaning up of their communities. This would be followed by the property retrieval and the lockdown of the residences. The restoration of local governance would be the third phase. The final phase would be the restoration of vital services such as water and electricity supply and hospital and medical care.

The Office of Civil Defense reported that of 465,674 people

who had been displaced, only 27,000 were sheltered in various evacuation centers in Iligan City and in the two Lanao provinces. The rest stayed in homes of relatives or friends.

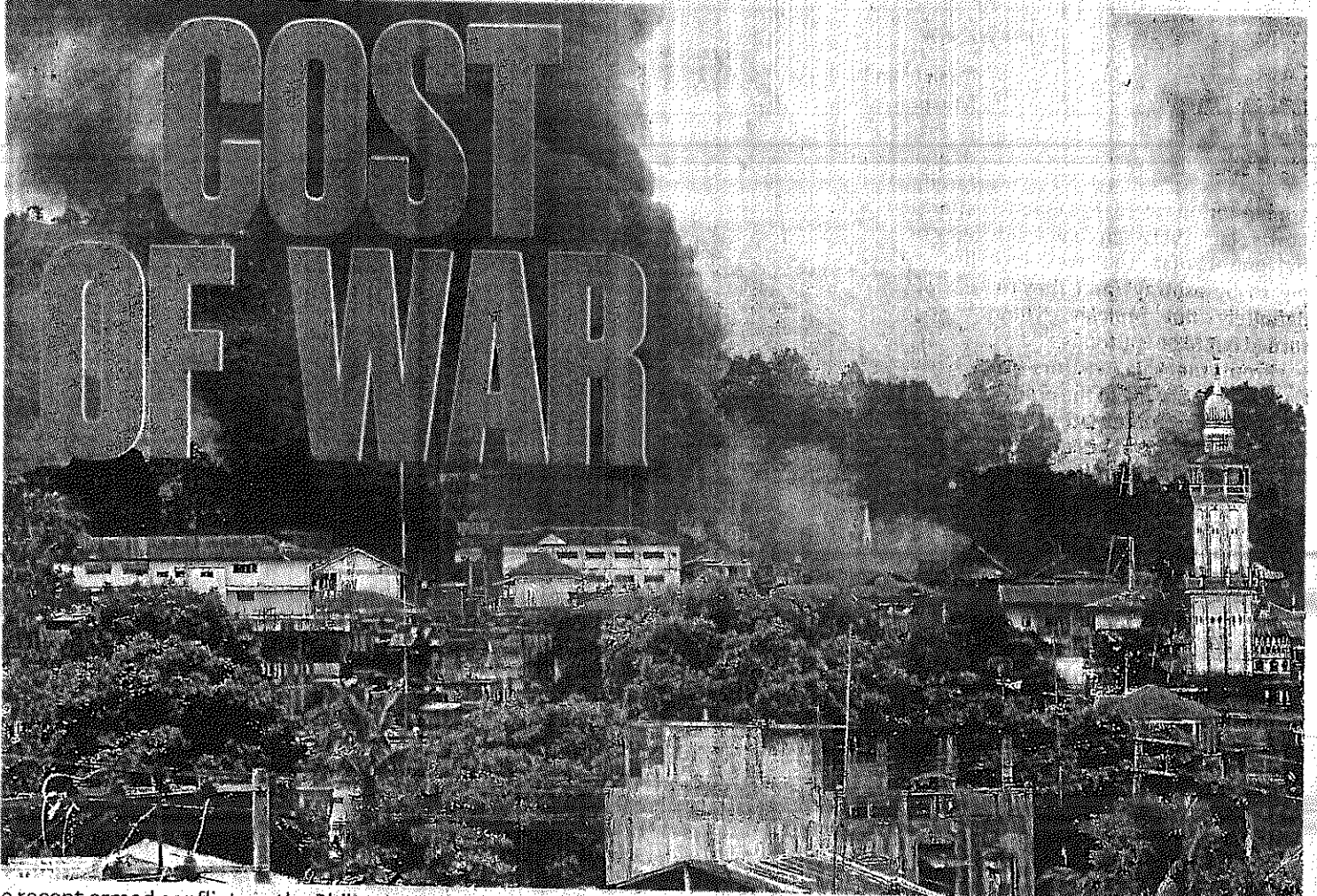
Fighting continued

Sporadic fighting continued even after President Duterte visited Marawi on Tuesday and announced its liberation, sparking hopes that hundreds of thousands of residents could begin returning home. The speed of their return, however, would depend on how quickly the city is declared safe of militants and rebuilt. —WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ

21 October 2017

INQUIRER

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Recent armed conflicts in the Philippines, specifically in Mindanao, had left most of the cities and towns in ruins.

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Kathleen de Villa
Quirer Research

Former First Lady of the United States Eleanor Roosevelt once said that “no one won the last war, and no one will win the next war.”

This rings true in recent armed conflicts in the Philippines, specifically in Mindanao, where thousands of lives had been lost, while cities and towns were left in ruins.

Marawi siege

The ongoing siege in Marawi City began on May 23 when gunmen from IS-inspired Maute and Abu Sayyaf, backed by several foreign fighters, seized large parts of the city to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

The occupation of Marawi, however, may finally come to an end, with the reported deaths of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute terror group leader Omarkhayam Maute on October 16.

Meanwhile, the nearly four-month siege destroyed houses, schools and other buildings, reducing much of Marawi to rubble.

These clashes were also said to have killed 822 terrorists, 163 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians, latest data showed. More than 1,700 troops have been wounded in the fighting.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) have already started its initial assessment of the damage and losses in Marawi City.

Reconstruction

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was quoted in news reports as saying that the government will need some P10 bil-



Soldiers on the front line in Marawi City (PDI photo)



The Marawi siege destroyed houses, schools and other buildings, reducing much of Marawi to rubble.

lion to rebuild the city.

Architect and urban planner Felino Palafox Jr., who committed to help in the reconstruction of Marawi, previously estimated that it might take “70 years” to bring Marawi back to what it was before the conflict.

Palafox recommended to provincial officials of Lanao del

Sur to make the ruins of Marawi a historic memorial as a reminder of how terrorism could wreak havoc on a community.

“Rehabilitate, maybe, the places of worship, education, and the significant buildings. The damaged ones, they can be retained, especially those full of bullet [holes] as a lesson for the

future on how terrorism can destroy a peaceful city,” Palafox said in an earlier interview.

Deadly attack

In another armed conflict instance in September 2013, hundreds of rebels from Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by Nur Misuari



In 2014, a year after the Zamboanga siege, damaged houses on stilts still stand on the shore (PDI phoro)

ny2012@gmail.co

religious structures.

Budget deficit

It can also be recalled in March 2000 that former President Joseph Estrada waged an all-out war against the MILF, which, in the process, killed hundreds of soldiers, civilians and rebels, and displaced thousands of rural poor families.

The military offensive, which launched aerial and ground attacks in Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, had taken its toll on government funds, with the budget deficit at P34.11 billion in the first five months of that year—5 percent above the target.

The government's P998.5 million calamity fund for 1999 ran out sooner than expected as the Congress allocated the fund damages wrought by typhoons and floods and not an "all-out war."

Some 8,344 houses were either destroyed or damaged by the war in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, government data showed.

The fighting also caused a heavy drop in tourism, investments, and income, as well as loss of jobs among low-income earners in Mindanao.

MNLF attack

In February 1974, the MNLF attacked Sulu province to demand Bangsamoro independence. Thousands were killed, and almost the entire town was burned to the ground.

Even landmarks that survived the bombs of previous wars disappeared from the landscape while millions of pesos worth of property and investments were looted.

Military retaliation, especially in the countryside, was a saga of massacres, summary arrests and executions, bombardments and shellings that all but wiped out orchards and crops.

The deadly attack, which lasted for nearly a month, left 240 people dead and 242 injured. About 118,819 people were displaced.

The rebels seized scores of villagers and used them as human shields. They also torched some 10,000 of houses to slow down a military advance.

According to an NDRRMC report, damage to infrastructure had cost some P58.8 million—which was just a portion of the total damage costs estimated at P3.3 billion.

A recovery and rehabilitation program in the affected villages in Zamboanga City dubbed the "Build Back Better Zamboanga" had been set up.

The program not only helped build socialized and mid-rise houses, but also rehabilitated roads, amenities, waterways, health centers, parks and playgrounds, schools, and

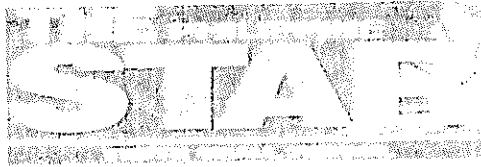
The damaged ones, they can be retained, especially those full of bullet [holes] as a lesson for the future on how terrorism can destroy a peaceful city

Felino Palafox Jr.

Architect and urban planner

sowed terror in Zamboanga City, occupying a number of coastal villages and battling military and police in a bid to derail peace talks between the government and a rival insurgent group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

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Troops search for Malaysian terrorist's body

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Even after President Duterte confirmed the death of Malaysian Mahmud bin Ahmad, the military will have to search for the exact place where the slain terrorist financier was buried.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said troops are hoping to capture some militants who can point to where Mahmud was buried for confirmation of the death.

Turn to Page 6

Troops From Page 1

"Our task now is to find or to look for the grave," he said.

But even though a body is yet to be found and subjected to DNA testing, Año believes the story of hostages who claimed that Mahmud was killed considering other reports supporting the information.

"We have to find the right people that buried him, because the hostages simply would not know because of the ongoing assault," Año said.

"Later on we will, (if) we are able to capture some Maute fighters, maybe they could reveal where Dr. Mahmud was buried," he said.

The military said Mahmud was among the 13 militants killed in a gunbattle with gov-

ernment forces late Wednesday, citing the information provided by two civilian hostages who escaped during the firefight.

The troops in Marawi led by Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao, earlier said the ground forces were having difficulty retrieving the bodies of militants for confirmation.

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

The military said the main battle area still needs to be secured despite Duterte's declaration that Marawi City is now liberated from the Maute group with the death of its leaders.

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BusinessMirror

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Rising from the rubbles: Assessing the cost of rebuilding postwar Marawi

BY RENE ACOSTA

FROM the use of guns, tanks, battle planes, drones and bombs, military engineers and government planners now shift to the use of pens, papers and calculators, as they attempt to come up with the exact monetary figure of the damage and rough sketches on how much it would take to rehabilitate Marawi City.

“We can now begin the next phase, which is damage assessment, which is already part of rehabilitation and reconstruction,” declared Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año after President Duterte pronounced the symbolic “liberation” of Marawi from the Islamic State (IS)-Maute group this week.

The declaration was made following the killings of Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, top leaders of the nearly five-month illegal drugs and terrorist-

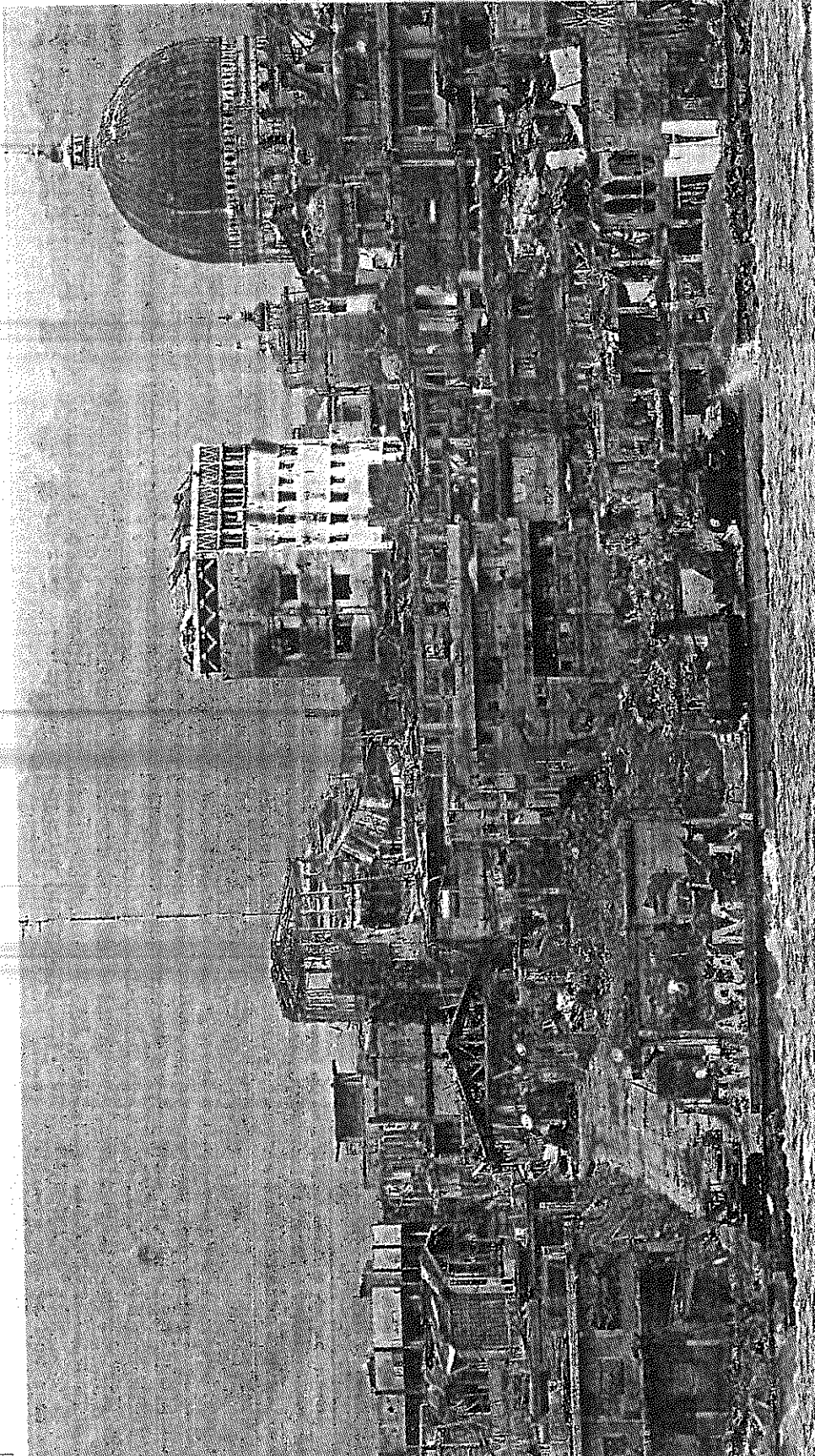
spawned rebellion—as claimed by Duterte—that almost wiped out a key city in Mindanao.

The assessment will be carried out, as the government continues to hunt the remnants of the IS-Maute group, which, according to Año, included at least eight Malaysian and Indonesian jihadists, in a small area near Lake Lanao in the devastated city.

“The small number of the remaining enemy can now be considered a law-enforcement matter and

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295



ARMORED personnel carriers are positioned near the bullet-riddled "I Love Marawi" landmark sign at the "main battle area" where pro-Islamic group militants are making a final stand amid a massive military offensive of Marawi City on October 19, 2017. Two days after President Duterte declared the liberation of the city, the military announced the killing of more suspected militants in the continuing military offensive. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

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Rising from the rubbles: Assessing the cost of rebuilding postwar Marawi

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CONTINUED FROM A1

does not constitute a serious threat to hinder the succeeding phases of national government programs. What remains now is mopping up operations against IS Maute stragglers in a small area," the chief of staff said.

Clearing operations

BEFORE the government can fully undertake the assessment, however, it has to clear the areas that became scenes of heavy fighting during the past months with homemade bombs and unexploded ordnance.

Along with the buildings and other structures that were interchangeably used as temporary quarters of the terrorists during the course of the war, these areas have been mined by the jihadists with homemade bombs, as part of their tactics in slowing down the push of the soldiers.

The military has claimed that exploding improvised explosive devices (IEDs) took a heavy toll on the assaulting troops.

"The clearing operations would be undertaken to remove those bombs that were left behind [by the terrorists], those which they called IEDs," Defense Secretary Delin Lorenzana said.

After the clearing operations, that's the time that we would allow those who would be conducting the assessments to come in and look at the damage for the rehabilitation to start," he added.

Estimates, options

THE liberation of Marawi will not only provide the government the opportunity to come up with correct estimates for its rehabilitation, but also allow the Armed Forces to determine exactly how much it spent in dealing with and ending the country's longest and most devastating "modern-day war".

Military officials refused to give figures pending official audit, but they all admit that it could run up to billions, not far from the P5-billion unofficial and modest estimate of Lorenzana two weeks ago.

In Marawi, the government has already assured a P50-billion fund kitty for its repair, but local and national officials all agreed that the amount may still be low, especially if the administration attempts to restore it to what it used to be before the conflict.

The Duterte administration is looking at three ways on how to raise the city from the ashes and resettle its residents displaced by the nearly five months of fighting.

Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said earlier in a news briefing that the first option is to restore or rebuild the damaged buildings and structures so Marawi could retain its appearance just like before the war.

The second and third options are to relocate the affected residents to new homes and erect a new city in another area.

Galvez said the war directly affected at least 10,000 families in the city.

Temporary homes

LORENZANA said that according to earlier initial estimates, more than 6,000 temporary houses will be constructed to provide shelters to residents forced out of their houses while the city is being rehabilitated. "The government will construct temporary housing while we are reconstructing Marawi."

Lorenzana added that families whose dwellings were not damaged during the war may start returning to their homes, noting that some houses sustained minimal damage.

The defense secretary sees the rehabilitation of Marawi going full blast by January next year, as Congress has yet to allocate money for the undertaking.

In the meantime and up to December, the government will conduct massive clearing operations in the city to unearth unexploded bombs and clear the debris left by the war.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY

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The Manila Times

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Marawi residents can't go home yet

RESIDENTS of Marawi City cannot go back to their homes just yet because the military has yet to clear some areas of explosives and booby traps left by the terrorist Maute group, military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Friday.

"We are not allowing any residents from entering the inner parts of Marawi yet because of the many hazards that still remain such as IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), booby traps, and unexploded ordnance," Padilla

told reporters.

He said cases of evacuees getting hurt or maimed by unexploded bombs are not new, citing the case of Cambodia and Laos where many people were injured by hidden bombs.

"This [tragedy] is something that we would not like to happen. That's why we appeal for understanding among our Muslim brothers and sisters, as well as other displaced persons in Marawi. This warning is for your sake, so kindly understand," Padilla said.

"We appeal for your patience because we really need to clear the city of hazards first," he added.

As of October 19, 897 terrorists have been killed by government forces, including Maute leaders Omar Maute, Isnilon Hapilon and Malaysian terrorist Mahmud Ahinad.

The DNA samples of the slain terror leaders were submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), according to Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

"That is a requirement in claim-

ing the reward from the US government. And also, in order to have the final confirmation of their identities," Año told *The Manila Times* in a text message.

He said the results of the DNA test "may come out anytime."

According to Año, the \$5 million reward will be shared by two civilians who pinpointed the whereabouts of Hapilon and Maute in Marawi City. He refused to name them.

**LLANESCA T. PANTI
AND DEMPSEY REYES**

21 October 2017

Standard

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Lone wolf attacks feared

Military raises IS threat as terror network grows

By John Paolo Bencito

THE military warned the public Friday against lone wolf attacks that might arise despite the fall of Islamic State strongholds in Iraq and in Southeast Asia.

In a Palace news briefing, military spokesperson Maj Gen Restituto Padilla said threats posed by the IS remain as its network is "increasingly becoming better."

"The most dangerous thing that may come out is [is that] their remaining network... may still [pose] a... threat in many parts of the world, not only in the

Philippines," Padilla said.

"You have seen things happening in Europe. [involving] lone wolf type attacks. And these are the kind of threats that may come out. So it is imperative that we all still continue to work together," he added.

The IS or Daesh are known to use propaganda to recruit lone wolves, to retaliate against counter-terrorism measures implemented by states and security services.

Individuals without any clear, organic or hierarchical connection with a group or faction carry out the attacks unilaterally.

Experts say lone wolves represent an extremely difficult challenge for security and intelligence services, since they are relatively unpredictable, undetectable and effectively unstoppable. *Next page*

Lone...
From A1

Recently, American-backed forces were able to retake the northern Syrian city of Raqqa from the Islamic State, a major blow to the militant group, which had long used the city as the de facto capital of its self-declared caliphate.

In the Philippines, the military liberate Marawi City from IS-inspired terrorists and killed three of their top leaders, Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute and their Malaysian financier Mahmud Ahmad.

Padilla, however, said that

they are still searching for Commander Baku, one of the group's leaders.

Padilla said greater knowledge of the IS would help nations deal with them better.

In the same briefing, Padilla welcomed the move of some relatives of Hapilon and Maute to surrender to the government.

He also announced the successful rescue of 10 more hostages.

"With the number of hostages that have been rescued in the last 24 hours, we look forward to getting the rest of the hostages and [to] addressing the armed threat that still

exists," Padilla assured.

Padilla said with the threat in Marawi reduced, some forces would be moved to other areas.

"They will also be going back to Luzon for a much-needed break and for their long-delayed training in Fort Magsaysay and in other camps of the Philippine Army to enhance their skills and prepare them for their next mission," Padilla said.

Other units would remain in Marawi to ensure the security of the residents during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, he said.

Padilla asked for patience and understanding from Marawi

residents who have been wanting to return to their homes.

He said evacuees are still not allowed to enter the inner parts of the city until the military's clearing operations are completed.

He emphasized the need to clear all areas of possible hazards, such as makeshift bombs and booby traps, and unexploded ordnance.

The Palace said Friday that martial law would remain in effect over the entire island of Mindanao despite the gains in Marawi City.

In a Palace news briefing, Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said that rem-

nants of the networks supporting the Maute local terror group, led by Maute, Hapilon and Mahmud remained intact.

"The death of the ringleaders of the Marawi rebellion... does not automatically result in the lifting of martial law," Abella said.

"There are remnants including networks supporting the Maute cause within Mindanao. The President is duty-bound not to compromise public safety," he added.

Abella said however, that Duterte will confer with the members of his Cabinet, particularly Defense Secretary and Martial Law Administra-

for Delfin Lorenzana and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who is the designated Martial Law Implementor, "on the necessary action to be taken."

Earlier, the military expressed the need to continue martial law amid possible threats involving other parts of Mindanao, including retaliatory threats posed by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, which operates in Maguindanao and Cotabato.

Earlier, Duterte warned that the violence in Marawi could spread to areas controlled by the BIFF, which also pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

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PULLOUT BEGINS.
Marines flash the victory sign as they begin pulling out from the main battle area in Marawi City Thursday. The battle to liberate the southern city lasted over four months, beginning May 23. AFP

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TRAYON

Pahina. 2

4 terror group banta pa rin - AFP

Nananatili pa ring banta sa seguridad ng Mindanao ang apat na terrorist groups kahit nasawi na sina Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute at Dr. Mahmoud Amad.

Tinukoy ni AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla ang An-sarul Khilafah Philippines (AKP), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), Abu Sayyaf group at Maute group.

Aniya, kahit napatay na ang mga lider na

NI RUDY ANDAL

sina Hapilon, Omar at Mahmoud ay mayroon pa ring natitirang mga miyembro ito na may kakayanang maghasik ng terorismo sa ilang lugar sa Mindanao.

"Halos pulbos na sila pero hindi tayo makasisiguro," paliwanag ni Gen Padilla.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, hindi automatic

na puwede nang alisin ang Martial Law sa Mindanao matapos mawala sina Hapilon, Omar Maute at Dr. Mahmoud.

"Killing of three major terrorist leaders does not automatically lift the martial law declaration in Mindanao. President Duterte to meet cabinet officials regarding the Martial Law," sabi ni Abella.

Una nang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na babawiin lamang nito ang Martial Law kapag napatay o naaresto na ang lahat ng terorista sa

rehiyon.

"When the time came, I declared martial law. Everybody is asking when will it stop? It will not stop until the last terrorist is taken out," wika ni Pangulong Duterte kamakalawa ng gabi.

Sa rekord ng militar, simula ng sumiklab ang labanan noong Mayo 23 ay nasa 1,108 na ang kabuuang death toll. Kabilang dito ang 897 nasawi sa pahig ng Maute-ISIS, 164 sundalo at 47 sibilyan.

Nasa 1,777 ang mga nasagip na bihag habang nakarekober ng 850 mga armas.

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Pahina. 2

10 pa Maute hostages nasagip

Sampu pang bihag ang nasagip ng tropa ng militar sa patuloy na operasyon upang durugin ang nalalabi pang mga teroristang Maute-ISIS.

Ayon kay Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command, kabilang sa mga nasagip ay limang kababaihan at anim na mga bata.

Bukod dito, 11 pa ang bineberipika kung tunay na mga bihag o baka kasapi ng Maute terrorists na naharang

ng militar habang papatakas sa lugar.

Sinabi naman ni AFP spokesman Major Gen. Resituto Padilla na hindi pa ganap na napapasok ng militar ang natitirang lugar na pinagtataguan ng mga terorista dahil may lumalaban pa kaya namatayan pa sila ng isang sundalo.

Ayon kay Padilla, may ilang bihag pang dapat iligtas at mga bangkay na irekober mula sa nasa kalahating ektaryang conflict area na hindi pa naki-clear ng militar.

Samantala, nanawagan kahapon ng pang-unawa ang AFP sa mga residente ng Marawi City dahil hindi pa sila puwedeng makabalik sa kanilang mga tahanan habang hindi nasiguro na ligtas na ang lungsod

mula sa mga booby traps at improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Ayon kay Padilla nananatiling banta pa rin ang natitirang Maute-ISIS group na kasalukuyang tinutugis ng militar sa Marawi matapos mapatay sina Malaysian fighter na si Mahmoud Ahmad, Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.

Hinahanap pa rin ng mga sundalo si Commander Amin Bacon na isang Malaysian fighter.

Bagama't may aalis nang tropa ng militar sa Marawi City upang magsilbing seguridad naman sa gaganapin ASEAN Summit ay mananatili pa rin ang ibang mga sundalo sa Marawi upang maghabol sa ilang terorista.

"First unit to arrive in Marawi is first to be sent off. There will be other units leaving Marawi, after the 1st Infantry Battalion. Conflict area now limited to only half a hectare within Marawi," pahayag ni Padilla.

(Rudy Andal)

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IBAYON

Pahina. 2

AFP nagbawas ng tropa sa Marawi **500 sundalo umuwi na**

Nagbawas na ng tropa ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa Marawi City matapos mapaslang ang mga matataas na lider ng Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) na siya ring naging hudyat upang ideklarang malaya na ang lungsod sa teroristang grupo.

Kahapon lulan ng C130 plane ay dumating na sa Villamor Air Base bandang alas-4 ng hapon ang isang batalyon o 500 sundalo na tropa ni Col. Christopher

Tampus, commander ng 1st Infantry "Always First" Battalion ng 2nd Infantry Division ng Philippine Army.

Bago ito ay nagkaroon ng send-off ceremony sa tropa ni Tampus na isinagawa nina AFP Western Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. at Major Danilo Pamonag, commander ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi sa Camp Ranao, Marawi City.

"Maintain the highest dignity of a soldier.

As much as we want to have you here, we need to let you go. Our oath is to serve the people and maintain the integrity of our country," tagubilin ni Galvez sa tropa ni Tampus.

Si Tampus at tatlo pang company commander ng Army's 1st Infantry Battalion ay ginawaran ng Silver Cross Medal.

Bahagi ng tropa ni Tampus ay mangangalaga sa seguridad sa gaganaping Association of Southeast Asian Na-

tions (ASEAN) Leaders Summit sa darating na Nobyembre.

Ang anim pang batalyon ng mga sundalo ay mananatili muna sa Marawi City para tumulong sa isasagawang rehabilitasyon sa lungsod. (Joy Cantos)



Isang matamis na halik at yakap mula sa kanilang mga anak ang sumalubong sa mga sundalo ng 1st Infantry Battalion ng 2nd Infantry Division ng Philippine Army nang dumating kahapon sa Villamor Airbase mula sa halos lumang buwang pakikipaglaban sa Maute-ISIS terrorists sa Marawi City. (Bernard Testal/News5/InterAksyon.com)

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Pahina. 2

Mga babaeng sundalo excited na sa HK trip

Inamin ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na excited na ang mga sundalo na makapagbakasyon kasama ang kanilang pamilya sa Hong Kong gaya ng pangako ni Pangulong Duterte sa mga kakabaihang sundalo na sumabak sa Marawi siege.

Sinabi ni AFP spokesman Maj Gen Restituto Padilla sa Mindanao Hour briefing sa Malacañang, ang unang aalis na tropa sa Marawi ay ang mga miyembro ng 1st Infantry Division ng Philippine Army na una ring dumating at nakipagbakbakan sa mga teroristang Maute-ISIS group.

Ayon kay Gen. Padilla, excited na ang tropa partikular ang mga sundalong kababaihan upang ma-enjoy nila kasama ang kanilang pamilya ang pangakong HK trip ng Pangulo sa kanila.

Magugunita na pinangakuan ng HK trip ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga sundalong kababaihan sa sandaling matapos ang Marawi siege.

Ang airfare ay sasagutin ng Cebu Pacific habang ang pocket money at accommodations ay magmumula kay Pangulong Duterte.

Iba naman ang pangako ng Pangulo sa mga lalaking sundalo. (Rudy Andala)

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Pahina. 2

Sample ng body tissue nina Hapilon, Omar Maute naipadala na sa FBI

Naisumite na ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang sample ng body tissue sa US-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) para maisailalim sa DNA test ang mga napaslang na teroristang sina Isniton Hapilon at Omar Maute.

Ayon kay AFP Chief Gen. Eduardo Año na bagaman walang nasabing time frame ang DNA test na isasagawa ng US-FBI ay inaasahan

nilang maipalalabas ang resulta ng DNA test sa lalong madaling panahon.

Sa pamamagitan ng resulta ng nasabing DNA test ay mapapatunayan kung ang dalawang top terror leader ang napatay sa assault operation sa Marawi.

Sina Hapilon ay may patong sa ulong \$5 M mula sa gobyerno ng Amerika at karagdagang P10 M mula sa pamaha-

laan habang si Omar ay P5 M ang reward sa ulo.

Nabatid na nagtungo ang FBI operatives sa Marawi at kumuha ng sample ng body tissue nina Hapilon at Omar.

Kaugnay nito, kinumpirma naman ng AFP na nasa pito pang dayuhang terorista kabilang ang mga Malaysian ISIS na sina Amin Bako at Ibno Kayim ang patuloy na tinutugis sa lungsod ng Marawi.

Sinabi naman ni Joint Task Force Lanao Deputy Commander Col. Romeo Brawner na nasa tatlong gusali na lamang sa battle zone sa lungsod ng Marawi ang pokus ng labanan at hindi na gaanong matindi ang putukan sa lugar.

Inaasahan namang tatagal na lamang ng ilang araw ang bakbakan sa nasabing lungsod. (Joy Cantos)

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BusinessMirror

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DOT infra arm to help rebuild Marawi City

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO | *Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR*

THE Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza) is ready to assist in getting Marawi City back on its feet, and facilitate a resurgence of tourism activity in the area.

In a text exchange with the BUSINESSMIRROR, Tieza COO Pocholo Paragas confirmed he has had previous discussions with Secretary Datu Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto of the Mindanao Development Authority on how the tourism agency can help in rebuilding Marawi, the capital of Lanao del Sur. Alonto sits on the board of Tieza, which is a government-owned and -controlled corporation under the Department of Tourism (DOT) tasked with developing tourism infrastructure, as well as developing and managing tourism enterprise zones and government-owned tourism properties.

"The main need in Marawi now is to rebuild the accessibility and road network of the area," said Paragas, "but Tieza can help in the master planning of the area to contribute to their economic development and enhance

its tourism potential." He added that "a lot of coordination is required with such an area and we will wait for further direction from Malacañang."

The national tourism agencies are constrained from acting directly on helping Marawi as it is under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), a separate source intimated. The ARMM has its own secretary of tourism, Ayesha Vanessa Hajar M. Dilangalen, the source explained, who may have her own ideas on how to revitalize Lanao del Sur's tourism industry.

But privately, DOT officials have expressed hope that the Marawi crisis would end soon, and martial law lifted in Mindanao as the region's tourism activities have been sorely affected.

Data from the DOT showed visitor arrivals reached 8.5 million in 2015, the bulk of which

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came from Davao region, at 2.8 million. No data was available for the ARMM, however. Before the outbreak of hostilities between government troops and Islamist separatist elements in Marawi, DOT officials were optimistic that visitor arrivals in Mindano would grow by 10 percent to 20 percent this year. They said this was contingent, however, on the construction of key infrastructure projects.

Asked about his thoughts on how to help some tourism destinations in Lanao del Sur, Paragas said, "Lanao Lake is very, very beautiful. I want a floating dock system placed there."

Aside from Lanao Lake, other interesting tourism sites in the province include Mabul Beach, Iga-Bai waterfalls, houses of Maranao royalty called *torogan*, and Barurao Springs, to name a few.

This developed as the DOT hailed the liberation of Marawi from Islamist separatist elements, announced recently by President Duterte.

"We salute and pay homage to

the troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), particularly to those 163 heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for the liberation of Marawi," said Tourism Secretary Wanda Corazon T. Teo in a news statement.

"Our government has proven that it can contain and eliminate any threat to peace and order, and ensure that the country remains a safe place to live and visit," she added.

The tourism secretary appealed to the public to support the government's "recovery and rehabilitation program to restore Marawi City's vibrant economy, business and livelihood; its reputable educational institutions; hospitals and medical clinics; and other public services."

She stressed that the greater challenge was to "[win] the hearts of our Filipino Muslim brothers not only in Marawi City but the whole of Mindanao...as we work together to bring back the splendor of the great Islamic City of Marawi."

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Robredo calls for unity in Marawi rehab

By GILBERT BAYORAN

BACOLOD CITY — Vice President Leni Robredo has called for unity in the rehabilitation of Marawi City following its liberation from the Maute group linked to the terrorist organization Islamic State.

Robredo said she is relieved that the crisis in Marawi has ended after more than four months of fighting between government troops and the Maute group.

"We salute our soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring back our freedom and rights," Robredo said at the launching of her project Istorya ng Pag-asa at University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

Istorya ng Pag-asa aims

to promote success stories of ordinary citizens to inspire positivity and optimism in the country to counter hate and negativity, especially in social media.

The Vice President also noted that the end of hostilities signals the start of rebuilding in Marawi, which the government cannot do alone.

"When we see pictures of devastation, it is really discouraging. But this is not the time for blaming, this is not the time for whatever, it is the time for heroism and unity," she added.

President Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi after soldiers killed Isnulon Hapilon and Omar Maute, leaders of the local terrorists who at-

tacked and occupied Marawi on May 23. Duterte placed the whole Mindanao under martial law to neutralize the Maute group.

Sectors are now calling for the lifting of martial law as government troops already neutralized the Maute and its leaders.

Robredo reminded that martial law was declared in Mindanao on the premise of peace and order situation, and the Department of National Defense said that there is no more clear and present danger.

New Zealand vows help

Meanwhile, New Zealand Ambassador David Strachan has vowed to help in the capacity building in Marawi

City after a meeting with Communications Secretary Martin Andanar on Thursday.

In an interview on the sidelines of a regional forum in Pasay City, Andanar said Strachan has expressed his government's intent to provide scholarships for qualified students and professionals in Marawi City after the President announced Marawi's liberation from terrorists.

"New Zealand is (also) interested in helping us in Marawi, especially in capacity building for the broadcast (capability) and in providing scholarship for our fellow Maranaoans," he said.

Andanar said the technical assistance from New Zealand will boost the government's efforts to reach out to residents

of Mindanao, particularly in the rebuilding of the war-torn Marawi City.

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) under Andanar is working on the setting up of a satellite office of his department and the Philippine News Agency in Marawi.

Andanar also bared plans to set up a Salam TV and radio broadcasting facility for Marawi City, which is different from the Salam HD station set-up for the Mindanao region.

US lauds liberation of Marawi

Michael Klecheski, deputy chief of mission of the embassy of the United States, also commended the liberation of Marawi during the 73rd com-

memoration of the Leyte landing yesterday.

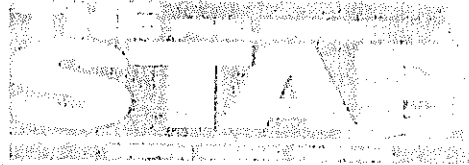
He said the US government is proud that the Philippines achieved a major victory in toppling down the leaders of the Maute group in Mindanao.

He also said the US reaffirmed its alliances, friendship and partnership with the Philippines, which started during World War II when General Douglas MacArthur liberated the Philippines and its allied forces on Oct. 20, 1944.

"Let us take this occasion as a reminder of the bravery and sacrifices of our World War II heroes who fought for our freedom and the real democracy we have now and the coming generations," Klecheski said.

– With Christina Mendez, Miriam Garcia Desacada

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Duterte wants to talk with Reds anew

After several hitches in the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), President Duterte bared last night that he is ready to talk with the insurgents again.

But the Chief Executive did not discuss the new terms that might prompt the resumption of the peace negotiations months after he ended the talks due to the continuing attacks of the CPP's armed wing, New People's Army, on members of the police and military in the countryside.

"I have to talk to the NPA," was all Duterte said in his speech at the launch of the Cebu Pacific hub at the Laguindingan International Airport in Cagayan de Oro.

Duterte conceded that insurgency remains to be among the country's problems, which he wants resolved during his term.

The Chief Executive expressed openness to resume the talks a day after he presided a meeting with officials of the Office of the Presidential Adviser of the Peace Process (OPPAP) and members, con-

sultants and advisers of the government on the peace negotiations with the communists at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang last Thursday.

Those present were Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, OPPAP assistant secretary Yesher Bacay, government peace panel chair and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, members Rene Sarmiento, Angela Trinidad, Antonio Arellano, advisers Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan, Quezon City Mayor Herbert Baustita and technical committee members

Brig. Gen. Raniel Ramido and Chief Supt. Francis Balagtas.

In the same speech, Duterte stressed that radical terrorism remains to be a major issue for his administration as he noted the attempts of the Islamic State militants to expand their forces worldwide.

On Tuesday, he declared the liberation of Marawi City from terrorists following the killings of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute group leader Omar Maute by government forces last Monday.

Before he flew to Cagayan

de Oro for the event, Duterte said he met with members of the 1st Infantry Battalion, the first responders during the Marawi siege last May, who arrived in Manila last night after almost five months of deployment.

Duterte also again cited illegal drugs as a major problem, which affects the country's peace and order situation and economic development.

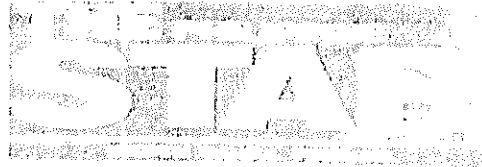
"All things equal, we are making good," Duterte said before the group of Cebu Pacific officials led by its president and chief executive of-

ficer, Lance Gokongwei.

"We are doing good... (in) the stock markets. We are earning..." he said while lauding the efforts of newly installed Customs commissioner and former police general Isidro Lapeña, also former Davao police chief when Duterte was still mayor of Davao, for the agency's gains.

Despite the so-called bleeding hearts over his drug war, Duterte insisted his administration is on the right track in the campaign against illegal drugs. - Christina Mendez

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Page: 1

Rody urged to keep ML timetable

By HELEN FLORES
and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Vice President Leni Robredo expressed hope yesterday that President Duterte would keep his word on the lifting of martial

law in Mindanao once hostilities in Marawi cease.

"The declaration of martial law in Mindanao was premised on the peace and order situation. If we remember, the Department of National Defense and the

military said that as soon as the area is cleared and there's no more danger there, they will lift it," Robredo said.

Despite declaring the liberation of Marawi City following

Turn to Page 6

Rody From Page 1

the death of terror leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayyam Maute early this week, President Duterte said on Thursday Mindanao would remain under martial law until the last terrorist is taken out.

In May, the President placed the whole of Mindanao under martial law and suspended the writ of habeas corpus "on account of lawless violence" in the region, particularly the siege of Marawi by the Maute group.

The declaration, initially for 60 days, has been extended up to the end of the year by Malacañang, with Congress' approval.

"We're not in the position

to say that it's done, but I hope they make good of their word so that the people's trust in the military, government will be maintained," Robredo said.

The Vice President also reiterated her call for unity among Filipinos to hasten the rebuilding of Marawi City.

"I think this cannot be done by the government alone. We need to work together," she said.

"This is not the time to blame each other or whatsoever, but this is the time to show heroism, the time to show unity," she said.

Public safety

At Malacañang, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella

said Duterte has public safety in mind in deciding to keep martial law in force in Mindanao.

"The death of the ring-leaders of the Marawi rebellion which include Omar Maute, Isnilon Hapilon and Dr. Mahmud Amad does not automatically result in the lifting of martial law," Abella said yesterday.

He added threats remain as terror networks have yet to be dismantled.

"There are remnants, including networks supporting the Maute cause within Mindanao. The President is duty bound not to compromise public safety," Abella said.

And before deciding on martial law, Duterte will have to confer first with members of his Cabinet security, justice

and peace cluster, particularly with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who is the designated martial law administrator, Abella pointed out.

The President, Abella also said, will also consult with Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año "on the necessary action to be taken."

In a Palace briefing, AFP spokesman Gen. Restituto Padilla said troops have started to shift operation to other areas for training and other activities.

Padilla assured the public that there will be enough soldiers to boost the security needs of every region in the country while the rehabilitation, reconstruction and rebuilding of Marawi commence.

The battle area in Marawi, Padilla said, covers only a

500-meter radius.

"With the number of hostages that has been rescued in the last 24 hours, we look forward to getting the rest of the hostages that still remain and addressing the armed threat that still exists," Padilla said.

"And we are praying that this will be today or the following day. So, let's give it – we are giving it our best and we are doing all we can so that we can end these hostilities in this part of Marawi," Padilla added.

Office of Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Kristopher James Purisima cited the need for a careful post-conflict assessment of the damage, especially the 24 barangays in Marawi.

Meanwhile, presidential legal adviser Salvador Panelo

also defended Duterte over his statement that he can declare a revolutionary government in the country to stave off ouster attempts.

In a television interview, Panelo said declaring a revolutionary government is allowed under the Constitution, and that it is part of his mandate as an elected leader.

"The electorate factored that in and when he was voted overwhelmingly, the electorate gave him the overwhelming mandate to declare a revolutionary government if there is a need for that," Panelo said.

"There is a constitutional mandate for that," he added, citing a provision in the 1987 Constitution, which says that "the prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people."

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No increase in AFP pension - DBM

By MARY GRACE PADIN

There will be no increase in the pension benefits of uniformed personnel despite the planned increase in the salaries of those in active service by 2018, according to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

In an interview, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the pension benefits of uniformed personnel would remain at their current level while the government is still studying the reforms needed in the military pension scheme.

This comes amid the proposed increase in the monthly salary base of soldiers, police, firefighters and jail guards as laid out in a draft joint resolution submitted by the DBM to Congress earlier.

"There is a provision in the joint resolution (for the military salary hike) that the (pension) will be set at the 2017 level, it will not be automatically adjusted," Diokno yesterday told reporters on the sidelines of the 43rd Philippines Business Conference and Expo in Manila.

Under the current military pension scheme, the pension entitlement of a retiree is au-

tomatically adjusted based on the prevailing scale of base pay for similarly ranked active personnel.

If not repealed in the joint resolution, this would entail further increase in the pension cost for uniformed personnel, an issue that has been identified by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) as a fiscal risk for the country.

Diokno said the studies for the possible military pension reforms may be finished by the first quarter of 2018.

"Maybe by first quarter next year we would already have a plan. Maybe that plan would involve the GSIS (Government Service Insurance System) because they (uniformed personnel) are government workers, after all," the budget chief said.

Economic managers had been mulling the integration of the military pension system into the GSIS. The initial actuarial study of the GSIS showed the government may need to infuse some P7 trillion into the state fund for the takeover.

Diokno had said to fund this requirement, the government will ensure that part of the proceeds from the sale and lease of military assets will go

to the GSIS.

"In addition, I am sure there will be a lump sum transfer to entice GSIS to take over, give them a one-time payment," he had said.

Earlier, Diokno said President Duterte has endorsed to Congress a draft joint resolution calling for the raise in the salaries of military personnel.

If signed by both houses of Congress, the DBM said the joint resolution will result in a 58.7 percent average increase in base pay for all military and uniformed personnel ranks, effective Jan. 1 of next year.

In particular, the base pay of a police officer in the Philippine National Police (PNP), a private in the Department of National Defense (DND), and equivalent ranks in other law enforcement agencies will enjoy a 100 percent increase in their monthly base pay to P29,668 from the current P14,834, the DBM said.

According to DBM estimates, the increase in the base pay of soldiers, police, firefighters and jail guards will entail an additional cost of P63.4 billion.

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₱4 B needed to repair damaged Marawi schools – Briones

By MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

As Marawi slowly picks up the pieces on the road to normalcy, real work begins not only in the lives of thousands that were ruined by five months of war but also in the infrastructure that needs to be rebuilt.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones said around ₱4 billion is needed to rehabilitate, restore, and repair damaged schools in the aftermath of the Marawi crisis.

A featured guest of the Manila Bulletin Hot Seat, a roundtable discussion with Manila Bulletin editors on Friday, Briones said all 59 schools in Marawi City alone are affected and about 20 of these are “totally destroyed, pounded to the ground” while the rest need “major repairs.”



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EDUCATION SECRETARY BRIONES

₱4 B needed to repair...



And as soon as they get clearance from the military, Briones said. "I'm going there myself because we have to look at the state of the facilities and school buildings and it's not just these buildings, the laboratories, books and others."

When the siege erupted last May, students were the most affected. Data from DepEd shows there were 27,673 students who were displaced and forced to enroll in various schools nationwide. "They are scattered all over the country... name a region and you have a Marawi child enrolled there and they are well integrated," Briones said.

Because the crisis erupted a month before the opening of classes, Marawi schools were asked to suspend the opening of classes. But teachers continued to receive their salaries because it is not their fault that this thing (siege) happened, Briones explained.

"However, we asked all schools nationwide to accept Marawi learners and evacuees should they choose to enroll even without documentation," she added. Region 10 which is near Marawi recorded the largest number of student transferees with 15,988.

Marawi City which is under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has its own education secretary. "However, we set the policies and we monitor so we do have a very good relationship with the DepEd ARMM," Briones noted.

Nationwide 'Brigada para sa Marawi'

The "Recovery Plan" of DepEd for Marawi is mainly focused on rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged facilities.

It consists of "Brigada Eskwela

sa Marawi" which will focus on repair school buildings, prepositioning temporary learning spaces (TLS) and provision of psycho-social support. "Operation: Balik Eskwela" which is scheduled to follow at least two weeks after the conduct of the "Brigada" to notice displaced learners to return to their schools which have already been repaired and rehabilitated; and the Adopt-a-School program where donors are welcome to "adopt" a damaged school for reconstruction of school buildings and facilities with complete furniture and materials.

Briones said DepEd is preparing for the "Brigada Para sa Marawi" - a one-day activity for "cleaning up and looking at the state of things."

Briones said this activity is not limited to officials of Marawi but is open to all who wish to help the city get back on its feet. "We're inviting the whole country... it will be a national 'brigada' and all are invited to participate," she said.

As early as June, Briones announced the conduct of "Brigada Eskwela sa Marawi" in cooperation with DepEd-ARMM, DepEd Central Office (CO), DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), DepEd Region 10, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other partner agencies and organizations.

"We will expedite the revitalization of education in Marawi City through this," Briones stressed.

"We also consider the safety and security, not only of our learners and workforce, but of the individuals and organizations that will go the extra mile to ensure the resumption of classes in Marawi," she said. "As soon as clearance is given that the city is safe from unexploded ordnance and

other security threats, we will mobilize communities and volunteers to rebuild schools," she added.

The "Brigada Eskwela sa Marawi" seeks to rehabilitate public school facilities with minimal damage, and to perform structural investigation and thorough intervention assessment for public schools with substantial damages. In preparing and repairing the schools, DepEd said it needs volunteers and construction supplies such as, but not limited to, paint, cement, nails, galvanized iron sheets, lumber, and hand tools.

Presidential commitment

While DepEd is currently assessing the damage in schools and other facilities, Briones said that they are also focusing on providing other immediate needs, particularly psycho-social debriefing for both teachers and students. "You cannot calm down the students if the teachers are still in a state of trauma even until now," she said.

In June, DepEd led the conduct of Psychological First Aid (PFA) for the first batch of teachers and personnel in Cagayan de Oro City. Briones said President Duterte "was very touched" that he committed a sizeable amount from the Presidential Social Fund when she talked about the need for psycho-social debriefing for the affected learners and teachers.

Briones assured that DepEd will extend all the help needed to help restore the schools affected by the crisis even if there will be no teachers or students around. "We are not sure if those who left will come back immediately," she said.

To date, DepEd has downloaded 17 million for teachers' kits and others. DepEd is hopeful that it will be allowed to use the funds under its Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF).

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'Bangon Marawi' has better chance of rising than 'Tindig Pilipinas'

BY YEN MAKABENTA
Columnist

First word

THE two names connote the same thing: the act of rising or standing up. Yet, as emblems of political hopes in the

Philippines in the aftermath of the battle of Marawi, they could not be more unlike in prospect and capacity.

"Tindig" has the look of a movement whose future may be already behind it, and which has a problem finding the members of its "coalition of coalitions."

Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th is now its most prominent standard bearer. Nowhere in sight are the political heavyweights, including former President Benigno Aquino 3rd and Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon, who graced in white (forsaking yellow) the movement's grand launch at

the Church of the Holy Sacrifice at UP Diliman on September 21, 2017, the 45th anniversary of the proclamation of martial law in September 1972. When people see the Magdalo mutineers, they go the other way.

It would be unfair to simply splash the

name "Tindig" on President Duterte's opposition, for there are clearly groups that do not identify with the Liberal Party, the Yellow cult and Magdalo. Prominent among these is the church-based opposition.

► **MakabentaA4**

MAKABENTA FROM A1

'Bangon Marawi' has better chance of rising than 'Tindig Pilipinas'



OBSERVER

YEN
MAKABENTA

could rally and organize.

Last week, Trillanes took the Tindig show to Washington D.C. where he made a big effort to meet with high officials of the US government. He found a willing listener in Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a member of the US Senate foreign relations committee. Rubio acknowledged him by sending out a cordial tweet. Some Filipino-Americans and the also visiting "little lady" Raissa Robles also created noise to complement Trillanes.

When the Philippine government charged that Trillanes was trying to abort President Trump's plans to visit Manila this coming November, the senator beat a hasty retreat. He sheepishly issued a statement of denial.

Since then, nothing. Tindig has fallen again into a black hole, emitting no sound or news about itself.

Bangon and the Marawi bonds

In gleeful contrast, Bangon sounds and looks like Christmas.

It benefits from developments in the mopping-up operations in the battle zone, like the killing of 13 more terrorists, including the much-hunted Malaysian terrorist-financier Mahmoud Ahmad. Displaced Marawi citizens will

soon start to return to what's left of their homes.

Bangon was kicked off by Duterte's declaration that Marawi's liberation signals the start of the rebuilding of Marawi. Government envisions the release of P15 billion for the rebuilding effort during the year. The full cost of rehabilitation will be much, much more.

Even more significant and far-reaching, the government plans to issue by January 2018 a debt instrument called the "Malawi bonds," totaling P30 billion, which will be used to finance the entire rebuilding effort. It plans to sell the bonds domestically and internationally. The world Bank no less has pledged to help. Aid from other countries will complement the financing.

Prominent citizens and whole sectors are moving to support the bonds and the rebuilding effort. Muslims and Christians and other faith-based groups will buy the bonds.

World-class development planners have recommended a scheme to build back Marawi better, even something to rival Dubai and other Muslim cities.

Signposts of Philippine politics

I use Tindig and Bangon here not to labor an invidious comparison, but to use them as signposts for Philippine political life today. They are by no means the whole of Philippine society.

Through Tindig, observers can feel the pulse or weakness of the political opposition.

It cannot be said that only Bangon has public money on its side, while Tindig has none. The truth is many in the opposition have access to public funds. Trillanes is able to travel and do all his destabilization plotting at public expense, because of the huge budget and large staff that he enjoys as a senator. He is joined by other opposition legislators who also feed at the public trough.

There are many in the public and in social media who now question whether Trillanes should continue to be subsidized by the taxpayer in his unceasing efforts to destabilize the government of President Duterte. Was he really elected to serve as a professional destabilizer of the government of the day? Is there no way to turn off the faucet of public money?

The big advantage of Bangon is that it enjoys also wide public support, the backing of big business and investors, and soon also the support of the international community and international financial institutions.

The future of Bangon is as bright as the prospect of the once prostrate and devastated city of Marawi.

Tindig has a millstone around its neck—Antonio Trillanes and the many negatives he brings with him. Even a drug lord will not invest in him. Vice President Leni Robredo, the LP chairman, was wise to cut off all contact with Tindig just a week after the mass at UP.

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