

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



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 October 2017

**Sunday**

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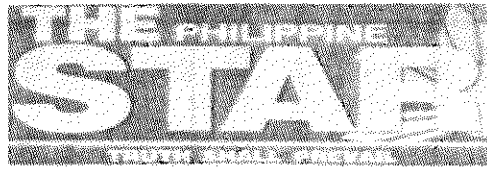
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5:49 AM	6:32 PM	7:40 AM	7:30 PM
LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
5:17 AM OCT 28	6:22 AM OCT 28	6:05 AM OCT 28 0.05 Meter	12:25 PM OCT 28 0.05 Meter

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST OCTOBER 22, 2017 | SUNDAY**

**TYPHOON "PABLO"**  
125 KM EAST OF BACO, SITANGAS  
(As of 4:00 AM - October 21, 2017)

LADAG CITY 24 - 30 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO CITY 15 - 24 °C	SBMA/CLARK 25 - 33 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 33 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 31 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 18 - 29 °C	KORONADO CITY 25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 26 - 34 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 31 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 33 °C
	METRO DAVAO 25 - 34 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	OCT 23 MON	OCT 24 TUE	OCT 25 WED	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	OCT 23 MON	OCT 24 TUE	OCT 25 WED
METRO MANILA	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C
LADAG	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	15 °C 23 °C	15 °C 23 °C	16 °C 23 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	19 °C 29 °C	19 °C 29 °C	19 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Next target: Hapilon's 3 sons

## Troops also hunt two Malaysians and an Indonesian

By REUTERS

**M**ARAWI CITY – Government troops are now zeroing in on three sons of Isnilon Hapilon, the slain "emir" of Islamic State in Southeast Asia, and two Malaysians, including Amin Baco, who has been central to facilitating the movement of foreign fighters in the region.

Lieutenant-General Carlito Galvez, Western Mindanao Command (West-MinCom) commander said on Saturday while disclosing that the government is preparing to declare the end of fighting

in Marawi City.

Only 20 insurgents remained in a small area in Marawi City, including Isnilon's sons and the two Malaysians and three battalions of troops ► 10

## Next target: Hapilon's... ◀1

were closing in on their positions, Galvez said.

"Most probably tomorrow, we can do it," Galvez told reporters when asked when the military can declare fighting is over. "We can declare it is totally complete."

"We cannot say our mission is totally accomplished or completed if the five persons are still there," he said, adding the remaining militants are "struggling to survive" and to protect their shrinking position.

Another general told Reuters they were also looking for a prominent Indonesian militant. The military is concerned Hapilon's sons and these foreign fighters could succeed core leaders of the alliance killed this week.

Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute were killed by commandos on Monday. Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, who experts say may have funded the Marawi siege, was also dead, according to a freed hostage, but his body has yet to be found.

### It's Hapilon - FBI

The Department of National Defense said on Saturday that forensic tests by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had confirmed that the man killed was Hapilon. The United States has provided technical support to treaty ally the Philippines, including surveillance drones.

The deaths of the leaders could slow down any effort by Islamic State to establish a presence in Mindanao,

a vast island with a history of rebellion and home to the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's Muslim minority.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the process of verification will also be done on some other slain terror suspects whose bodies were retrieved by the local troops.

"This process of verification is also being conducted on the cadavers of the other terrorists that have been recovered so far," said Lorenzana.

The organization and combat capability of the rebels has stunned the military. Some experts see the siege as a prelude to a more ambitious bid by Islamic State loyalists to exploit Mindanao's poverty and use its jungles and mountains as a base to train, recruit and launch attacks in the region.

Galvez, head of the Western Mindanao Command, inspected troops in Marawi and sent off a battalion of marines central to military operations. It was the second unit to leave the conflict area.

The military declined to divulge the number of troops remaining in Marawi. Elite commandos were leading the assault, with army infantry battalions and police commandos securing safe areas.

The military said eleven hostages were "processed" on Saturday to determine whether they were really captives or militant members and sympathizers trying to slip away.

Galvez said rehabilitation, including retrieval of the dead, would start after the end of hostilities is declared.

The Philippines estimates the rebuilding of areas battered by months of government air strikes could cost at least P50 billion.

### No complacency

Meanwhile, Malacañang assured that the government, particularly the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), won't let its guard down against the threat of terrorism in Mindanao.

This following the start of the pullout and shifting of the government troops who have been fighting in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur since the rebellion started on May 23, 2017.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the military will continue to address the threat in Mindanao until the last terrorist is out.

"The start of the military pullout in Marawi does not signal the end of fighting between our troops and Maute terrorist stragglers," he said Saturday.

"We cannot afford to drop our guard for possible threats coming from the remaining network of Daesh-inspired terrorist group still operating as we begin the challenging task of rebuilding, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi," he added.

Abella also said that while the number of enemies has dwindled, the government will continue to be on high alert.

"We will continue to be alert and assure the residents of the city that we will not compromise its security with the presence of some units of the Armed Forces," he said. (With reports from Aaron B. Recuenco and Argyll B. Geducos)

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# FBI confirms Hapilon's death through DNA test

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has confirmed the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon through DNA tests.

"We have received an official report that the US FBI has confirmed that the DNA sample taken from a body recovered by our operating units in Marawi matches that of Isnilon Hapilon," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced yesterday.

"This process of verification is also being conducted on the cadavers of the other terrorists that have been recovered so far," he added.

Lorenzana said the FBI sent representatives shortly after the government announced the killing of Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute, the key leaders of the Maute group that laid siege to Marawi City. Hapilon was on the FBI's

"Most Wanted Terrorist" list. The US Department of State's Rewards for Justice Program offered a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the conviction or apprehension of Hapilon, who was considered "armed and dangerous."

Hapilon headed the notorious Abu Sayyaf and was designated emir of the Islamic State (IS) in Southeast Asia to establish a caliphate in southern Philippines with the help of the Maute group.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the DNA result is required in claiming the reward offered by the US government.

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## **FBI** From Page 1

Forensic examination results showed Hapilon and Maute were killed during a gunbattle with government troops last Monday, acting on information provided by hostages who escaped during the gunfight.

Officials said the government is now ready to look into the backgrounds of the civilian tipsters who led authorities to the killing of the terror leaders.

Days after Hapilon and Maute were killed, the government announced the killing of Malaysian terrorist Mahmud bin Ahmad, though the military has yet to locate his body to confirm his death.

## **Winding up**

The military has started the pullout of troops in Marawi City after the key leaders the Maute group were taken out of play.

At the same time, some military units pressed their assault against the remaining militants with artillery and gunfire while clearing the buildings in the main battle area of booby traps and unexploded bombs.

The battle for Marawi that has raged for five months has claimed more than 1,000 lives and thousands displaced and homeless.

Officials assured the battle is going down to the stretch.

"We hope to finish it by today (yesterday). There are at least 10

remaining Maute terrorists still battling it out there," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

Western Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the senior military commander overseeing the Marawi offensive, said the troops are poised to finish off the remaining terrorists hemmed into a shrinking battle zone.

Galvez assured no one among the terrorists would be left alive by the troops in the last phase of the offensive.

"Hopefully, we have headway anytime today (yesterday) and we overrun the three buildings," he said.

Troops are hunting Malaysian terrorist Amin Baco and the sons of Hapilon who were believed to be among the remaining gunmen inside the battle area.

Baco was said to have succeeded Mahmud for the leadership of the Maute group after his compatriot was killed last Thursday. Galvez confirmed Mahmud was killed, citing accounts from former hostages and other sources.

Galvez said the troops were given the mission to kill all the remaining terrorists.

He made the assurance to assuage fears of the Marawi residents of possible retaliation.



Evacuees from war-torn Marawi City get purified drinking water from a fire truck parked along the road in Balo-i town, Lanao del Norte yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROSALES



by the remaining terrorists on the returning civilians.

"In order to remove that fear we need to neutralize them all," Galvez said.

"The instruction of the President is to neutralize all the terrorists so that justice will be served," he added.

Malacañang also assured the military would continue its offensive until the last terrorist in Marawi is driven out.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the start of the military pullout in Marawi does not signal the end of the fighting.

"While enemy force has greatly diminished, we will continue to be alert and assure the residents of the city that we will not compromise its security with the presence of some units of the Armed Forces," Abella said.

### Where credit is due

A day after Hapilon and Maute were killed,

President Duterte visited Marawi and announced its liberation, sparking hopes that hundreds of thousands of residents could begin returning home.

Volunteers and displaced residents began a cleanup in neighborhoods that were declared safe. Power has been restored in more than half of

the city, along with water supply, officials said.

Military operations have cost P5 billion and the government estimates it could cost 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.

The US government, along with Australia, has provided close support in the war against the Maute by deploying drones and technical support to the frontlines.

The patrol boats used by the AFP to prevent the possible escape of the terrorists to Lake Lanao in the city were also provided by the US government, Ambassador Sung Kim pointed out.

"Proud to see brave Filipino commandos patrolling Lake Lanao on a US-donated marine vessel," the US ambassador said in his Twitter post.

Kim made the statement after Duterte publicly expressed gratitude to China for its support in the military offensive in Marawi.

Duterte was eager to credit China in the war in Marawi, saying it was a Chinese rifle that fired the bullet that finished off Hapilon.

"It was only China who gave it on time and plenty,

plenty," Duterte said on Thursday. "I would like to officially inform you, (Chinese) Ambassador Zhao (Jianhua), that the rifle that killed Hapilon was a super rifle made in China."

Duterte is a huge fan of the Chinese rifles and took a shot himself in the direction of militants in Marawi City recently.

Addressing businessmen and diplomats last Thursday, he singled out Zhao for China's support that led to the crucial killing.

The military has yet to confirm the President's claim, as against a supposed account of a soldier in the frontlines that went viral online saying it was a fixed weapon mounted on top of an armored vehicle that killed Hapilon.

In the same speech, Duterte compared the supposed Chinese support to that of the US and Israel which, he said, did not give the equipment but merely allowed Filipino troops to use it.

The US embassy earlier said it is proud to support the AFP through technical assistance, including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

Kim also vowed to support the recovery and rehabilitation of Marawi. – **With Christina Mendez, Roel Pareño, Edith Regalado, Janvic Mateo**

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# Hero's welcome for Army's 1IB upon return from Marawi City

BY DANNY I. ESTACIO

**C**AMP NAKAR, Lucena City – The Second Infantry Division (2ID) tendered a hero's welcome for the 1st Infantry Battalion (1IB), yesterday morning at Camp Capinpin in Tanay Rizal, honoring them for their sacrifice and heroism in the campaign against violent extremism in Marawi City, said Major General Rhoderick Parayno, Army's division commander.

He said that the returning fighters showed "our own brand of winning battles" against the enemies of the people and the country.

"With this honor, I'm also recognizing the collective efforts of all Jungle Fighters in maintaining the peace and security in our own area of operation (Calabarzon and Mimaropa). We were able to hold the enemy at bay, preventing them from initiating their own terroristic actions in the area," he added.

"We even scored against them, causing them to be on the defensive. Our 1st IB deserves the honor they received, Parayno stressed.

"Though we lost one soldier during the battle with Marawi's Maute-ISIS, with another 13 wounded in actions from enemy's sniper fire and grenade blasts, we won't forget this sacrifice. And we will live to honor them by continuing our sworn duty to protect the people and the state inspired by the heroism of those who

gave this sacrifice," Parayno said.

The 1IB, headed by its commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus of the 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army and Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM), is the first batch of government forces who reinforced the government side against terrorists.

Parayno announced that the same group would undergo training and will be tasked with securing the forthcoming ASEAN Summit.

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## Pagkatapos ng 5 months ng giyera sa Marawi: **DIGONG MAY PREMYO SA MGA SUNDALO!**

**PAGKARAAN** ng halos limang buwan ng matinding bakbakan sa Marawi City, gusto naman ng mga sundalo ay magpahinga at mag-relax muna, at posible ay bumiyaha sa Hong Kong na ipinangako sa kanila ni Pangulong Rody Duterte.

Ang trip to Hong Kong ay ipinangako ni Duterte sa mga sundalo dalawang buwan na ang nakaraan nang bumisita sa Marawi ang pangulo noong Agosto 4, kasagsagan ng bakbakan.

"That's why soldiers are excited for the war to end because they will continue on to Hong Kong," sabi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Major General Restituto Padilla sa press briefing nitong Biyernes.

Inakit ni Duterte ang mga sundalo sa Marawi na ipapasal ang mga ito sa Hong Kong bilang reward sa kanilang pagbubuwis ng buhay para mabawi ang

Marawi sa kamay ng mga teroristang Maute-ISIS. Bibigyan din ang mga matinding sundalo ng 'Medal of Valor'.

"Siguro may prize ako 'yung ano – 'yung Valor, 'yung mga tigas. Mga Hong Kong siguro," sabi niya sa mga nagpapalak-palakang sundalo.

"Hong Kong that's free. If you want, bring a partner, your spouse," pangako noon ni Presidente Duterte.

Nang sumunod na pag-bisita ni Duterte sa Marawi, sinabi niya sa mga sundalo, magpapa-affle siya ng all-expense-paid Hong Kong trips.

"I'll have a raffle. If you're lucky, you can

bring your spouse and children," sabi ng Presidente noong September 11.

Sinabi niyang ang bakasyon na walang kasamang loved ones ay walang kulay. "They'd always hanker for the children and the wife."

Kapag ang mga sundalo ay ayaw mag-abroad, nag-alok si Duterte ng ibang option: bibigyan ng tsansa ang mga sundalo na malatagpo ang celebrity.

"Kung ayaw mo naman, ituro mo 'yung artista na gusto mo at pakusapan natin," sabi ni Duterte noong Agosto.

Ayon pa kay Padilla, pagkatapos ng digmaan sa Marawi, ang ibang tropa ay inalis na sa Marawi para makapagpahinga na ang mga ito at makabalik-uli sa training.

Ang unang unit na sumabak sa Marawi, ang

First Infantry Battalion na pinamumunuan ni Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Tampus, ay pinauwi na base sa rule ng AFP na "first in, first out."

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," sabi ni Padilla.

Ang erya na binakante ni Tampus ay pupunan naman ng ibang military units para ituloy ang pagbibigay ng seguridad habang nasa recovery at rehabilitation phase.

Ang First Infantry Battalion ang nakapag-rescue ng 34 hostages habang nasa kasagsagan ng bakbakan. Ang unit ay namatayan ng isang sundalo at marami ang sugatan.

- Mula sa Rappler

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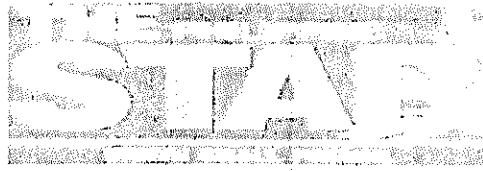
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**ART OF WAR**  
– These Marines proudly show off their miniature armored personnel carriers made out of spent bullet casings that they crafted during the lull in the fighting in Marawi City. (Keith Bacongco)

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Editor TERESA B. COROS

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 22, 2017



A sendoff ceremony is held for members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team and Marine Special Operations Group in Marawi yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROSALES

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## Soldiers eye HK trip

GOVERNMENT soldiers who braved months of intense battle in Marawi are now looking forward to rest and relaxation, and possibly a trip to Hong Kong as President Rodrigo Duterte had promised them.

The trip was promised two months ago when Duterte visited Marawi on August 4.

"That's why soldiers are excited for the war to end because they will continue on to Hong Kong," said Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Major General Restituto Padilla.

Duterte had enticed soldiers in Marawi with a trip to Hong Kong as reward for their efforts in retaking the city. The trip would go to soldiers awarded the Medal of Valor.

"Siguro may prize ako yung ano – yung Valor, yung mga tigas. Mga Hong Kong siguro," he said to applause from the uniformed personnel. (Maybe I will give a prize – for the [Medal of] Valor [awardees], the tough ones. Maybe, Hong Kong.)

"Hong Kong, that's free. If you want, bring a partner, your spouse," the President said.

Duterte also told soldiers he would raffle off

the all-expense-paid Hong Kong trips.

"I'll have a raffle. If you're lucky, you can bring your spouse and children," said the President on September 11.

He reasoned that a vacation without loved ones is meaningless. "They'd always hanker for the children and the wife."

If the soldiers would rather not go abroad, Duterte offered another option: A chance for the soldiers to meet a celebrity.

"Kung ayaw mo naman, ituro mo yung artista na gusto mo at pakiusap natin," said Duterte in August. (If you don't want, identify the celebrities you like, and we will request an audience with them.)

With the end of hostilities in Marawi in sight, Padilla said some troops are already being transferred out of Marawi so the soldiers can take a rest and then go back to training.

The first unit to be sent to Marawi, the First Infantry Battalion headed by Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Tampus, has been sent off following the AFP's rule of "first in, first out."

"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," said Padilla.

The First Infantry Battalion is credited for the successful rescue of 34 hostages during the height of the conflict. The unit lost one soldier while several were wounded.

Padilla said the troops received the Silver Cross Medal and a Command Plaque from the Western Mindanao Command.

Aside from his promise of a Hong Kong trip, the President also promised to give firearms to all soldiers who fought in Marawi.

Padilla said this commitment is being gradually fulfilled.

"There was a ceremonial turnover of 500 firearms, which our Commander-in-Chief gave to our soldiers," said the military spokesman.

Reports said that some 3,000 to 5,000 more firearms, which were purchased from a local company, are set to be delivered.

This is among the ways the President wants to show his concern and gratitude to the uniformed men and women who risked their lives in the Marawi battlefield. **EMontano**

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# Troops await Duterte's HK trip promise

By **EFREN MONTANO**

**OUR government soldiers who braved months of enduring intense battle in Marawi are now looking forward to rest and relaxation, and possibly a trip to Hong Kong as President Rodrigo Duterte had promised them.**

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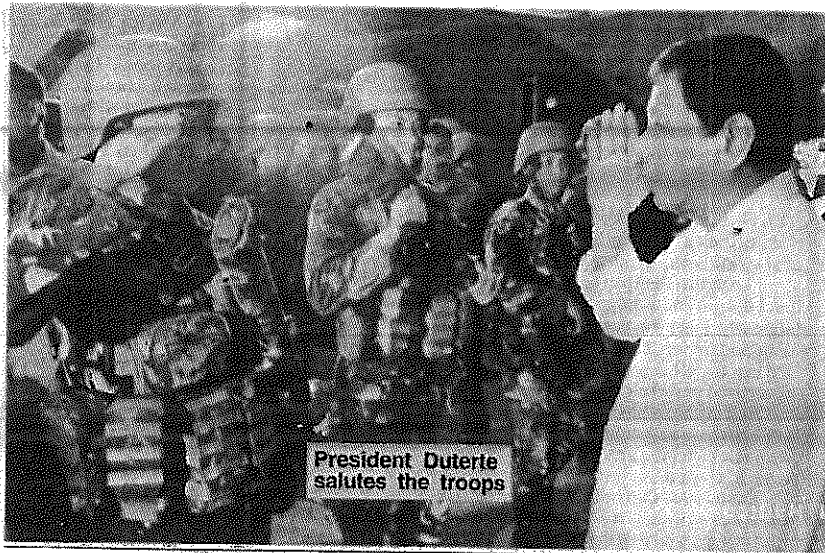
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"Kung ayaw mo naman, ituro mo 'yung artista na gusto mo at pakiusapan natin," said Duterte in August. (If you don't want, identify the celebrities you like, and we will request an audience with them.)

With the end of hostilities in Marawi in sight, Padilla said some troops are already being transferred out of Marawi so the soldiers can take a rest and then go back to training.

The first unit to be sent to Marawi, the First Infantry Battalion headed by Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Tampus, has been sent off following the AFP's rule of "first in, first out."

"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," said Padilla.



28 October 2017



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### **Ex-soldier slain in drug raid**

Meanwhile, a former Army soldier was killed in an alleged shootout with operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Davao del Norte on Wednesday.

Roel Sahiron, 32, fired at PDEA agents serving a search warrant at his house in Barangay Visayan Village, Tagum at about 2:45 p.m., PDEA director general Aaron Aquino said yesterday.

Sahiron was pronounced dead on arrival in a hospital.

Aquino said three grams of shabu with an estimated street value of P45,000, drug paraphernalia and a caliber 22 revolver were recovered from the fatality.

Sahiron's partner Maria Shalika Cheng, 39, was arrested.

**Emmanuel Tupas**



# FBI confirms DNA sample from Hapilon's remains

THE United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has confirmed through DNA testing that the body retrieved from Marawi City believed to be Isnilon Hapilon's is indeed his remains.

"We have received an official report that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation has confirmed that the DNA sample taken from a body recovered by our operating units in Marawi matches that of Isnilon Hapilon," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement on Saturday.

"This process of verification is also being conducted on the cadavers of the other terrorists that have been recovered so far," Lorenza added.

Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute were both killed in a predawn assault by the Philippine Army's Scout Rangers and Light Reaction on Monday. Their remains were retrieved by the same units.

Lorenzana had said that the location of the two were pinpointed by a female hostage, whose identity the Armed Forces of the Philippines refused to disclose.

The day after the operations, President Rodrigo Duterte declared Marawi City liberated from the hands of the terrorists amid ongoing clashes to crack down the remaining extremists in the main battle zone.



■ Isnilon Hapilon

Three days after, Malaysia's most wanted terrorist and former academician Dr. Mahmud Ahmad was confirmed dead by the military following an overnight operation.

## 'Not interested'

As for the remains of Maute, Lorenzana said the FBI "might not be interested" in running DNA tests.

"Maybe they (FBI) are not interested because they do not have a reward for

► DNA A2

### ■ DNA FROM A1

# FBI confirms DNA sample from Hapilon's remains

were killed

At least 1,108 people, mostly terrorists, have died since clashes erupted in the city on May 23.

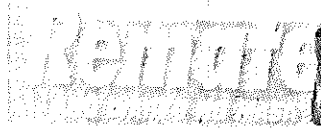
Some 400,000 residents in Marawi City and nearby towns were also forced to evacuate, as the crisis left much of the city in ruins.

Government has begun laying down

plans to rebuild Marawi, once a bustling urban and cultural capital and the country's only Islamic city.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

October 2017



Pahina. 2

### **Pagkamatay ni Hapilon kinum- pirma ng US-FBI**

POSITIBONG bangkay ng lider ng Abu Sayyaf Group at emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia na si Isnilon Hapilon ang natagpuan ng tropa ng pamahalaan sa gitna ng giyera sa Marawi.

Ayon kay Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, lumabas sa opisyal na ulat ng US Federal Bureau of Investigation na tumugma kay Hapilon ang DNA sample na nakuha mula sa bangkay na narekober sa lungsod.

Gayunman, hindi pa nailalabas ng US-FBI ang resulta ng DNA test sa nakuhang bangkay umano ni Omar Maute at sa iba pang teroristang nakuha sa main battle area sa Marawi City.

Samantala, siyam na hinihinalang miyembro ng ASG ang sumuko sa Armed Forces of the Philippines kung saan isa sa kanila ang pinsan ni Hapilon.

Ayon kay AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo, kabilang si Ben Salina Sapin aliyas Ben sa mga teroristang sumuko sa 74th Infantry Battalion sa Al Baraka, Basilan. Isinuko rin nila ang kanilang mga armas.

Sa ngayon ay umaabot na sa 124 ang napapatay na ASG, 82 ang inaresto habang 119 ang boluntaryong sumuko.

**KRIS JOSE at  
JEFF GALLOS**

22 October 2017



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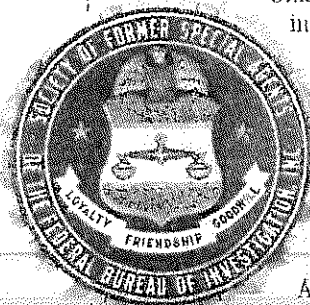
# FBI confirms IS emir's killing

By Ted Tuvera

The US government's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has confirmed that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon has indeed been killed based on DNA samples taken from the terrorist, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Hapilon along with Maute group founder Omar Maute were reported killed in a skirmish last October 16 with the military supporting its claim of having slain both with photos of the cadavers.

Hapilon is in the most wanted list of the US government and was designated by the Islamic State as its emir in Southeast Asia.



The US State Department had offered \$5 million for the arrest or neutralization of Hapilon.

"We have received an official report that the U.S. FBI has confirmed that the DNA sample taken from a body recovered by our opening units in Marawi matches that of Isnilon Hapilon," Lorenzana said in a statement.

He added that "this process of verification is also being conducted on the cadavers of the other terrorists that have been recovered so far."

Hapilon, along with the Maute brothers, led the May 23 attack on Marawi. The military said IS militants from neighboring Malaysia and Indonesia also took part in the siege.

President Duterte, meanwhile, dashed allegations of him having dictatorial tendencies saying that it is not in his nature.

"Those who say that I am dictator, susmaryosep (my God), that is not my character," Duterte said in a speech in Cagayan de Oro late Friday night.

"I will serve during my time. Those who say that I have ambitions, they must be crazy," he added.

Duterte had said his mother Soledad fought the Marcos dictatorship.

## State forces remain vigilant

With government troops pulling out of war-torn and "liberated" Marawi City, Malacañang said it does not mean that military operations have finally ceased in the war zone.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, in a statement read over state-run radio dzRB, said state security forces remains to be in a vigilant, combative position against the remaining IS-inspired bandits in some parts of Marawi City.

Elements of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, which were the first respondents days after IS-Maute terrorist groups attempted to occupy Marawi on May 23, were finally pulled-out from Marawi last Friday and were welcomed home at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City by their loved ones.

Abella pointed out that the government cannot compromise the security situation in Marawi given that enemy leaders have been subsequently neutralized in intensified operations.

"The start of the military pullout in Marawi does not signal the end of fighting between our troops and Maute terrorist-stragglers," Abella said.

"While enemy force has greatly diminished, we will continue to be alert and assure the residents of the city that we will not compromise its security with the presence of some units of the Armed Forces," he added.

Moreover, Abella said that government forces are securing Marawi City to finally begin the actual rehabilitation efforts on the ground.

"We cannot afford to drop our guard for possible threats coming from the remaining network of Daesh-inspired terrorist group still operating as we begin the challenging task of rebuilding, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi," he said.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituo Padilla said the military would now be shifting its forces to other areas for their required training and scheduled battalion activities.

"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.

The military official clarified,

however, that there are still units deployed in the war-torn city to continuously ensure the security of the people during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

"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," Padilla said.

Padilla then sought the patience and understanding of the Marawi residents who are planning to return to their homes.

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

The AFP official stressed the need to clear all areas of all possible hazards like improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and booby traps before allowing residents to return.

Furthermore, Abella reiterated the President's statement that martial law in Mindanao would not be lifted until the last terrorist had been taken out.

The Cabinet official said the death of the ringleaders of the Marawi rebellion, including Omar Maute, Isnilon Hapilon, and Mahmud Ahmad, do not automatically result in the lifting of martial law.

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

On the other hand, Abella explained that President Duterte would still confer with the members of his Cabinet Security, the Justice and Peace Cluster in particular, to come up with a decision on the matter.

He said the President would discuss the necessary action to be taken with the Secretary of National Defense, who is the designated martial law administrator, and the AFP Chief of Staff, who is the designated martial law implementor.

## Briones eager on rehab

Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones is awaiting the go-signal of the government security forces in Marawi City to start the rehabilitation of damage schools in the area.

Turn to page 2

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Records of the department showed that 22 out of the 69 public schools in Marawi City was severely damaged due to the intense fighting between the military and members of the ISIS inspired Maute Group that also resulted to the killing of thousands of people.

According to DepEd Undersecretary Alain del Pascua the damaged school buildings are located in the main battle area in Marawi City and most of these were hit by bombs in the heat of the war and some of these were burned down by the terrorists.

"If not hit by bombs, the public schools were burned down and most of it were inside ground zero," Pascua said.

The DepEd is currently assessing the extent of damage in public school buildings in order to prepare the needed funds for rehabilitation works.

But Briones is calling everyone to work with the government in rebuilding the city of Marawi.

This was ventilated by Briones in her recent speech during the Stakeholders Forum held at the DepEd Central Office, where Secretary Briones expressed her appreciation of partners from the private sector, especially those who attended the occasion.

"I am happy that we are working together, so somehow the

objectives of education and your own specialized objectives can somehow meet and achieve the goals which we have set for ourselves," the Education chief relayed with enthusiasm.

"The return home of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion (IB) was a convincing signal that the Marawi City conflict is over and for the rebuilding process to start, and most importantly restoring hope among the residents of the ruined city to rebuild their lives." Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo said.

The 1st IB was also the first military group that responded to the May 23 Islamic State (IS)-inspired siege of Marawi City.

The five-month conflict raised a climate of uncertainty in the country primarily on the capability of the IS to make good its threat to set up a Southeast Asian caliphate in the country led by emir Isnilon.

There was also the fear that a prolonged armed conflict may affect the unprecedented strong momentum of the economy which is now growing at more than six percent a year which is the exact growth rate needed to eradicate poverty.

"None of such fears happened, Isnilon and Maute group leader Omar Maute are dead, and the positive turnout was mainly as a result of the quick move of Rody to impose martial law on the entire Mindanao and the bravery of the state forces in halting the IS ambitions in Southeast Asia," Castelo said.

"I commend the state forces, including the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) for their sense of duty and loyalty to the country and flag, for the decisive end of the IS ambition in the country," Castelo said.

Castelo said Congress will do its part in repaying their efforts by passing legislative measures that would improve the conditions of members of the AFP, PNP and PCG and the immediate appropriation of funds for the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

It would be the least that members of Congress can contribute to the return to normal lives of the combatants and the civilians alike who were affected by the evils of terrorism, Castelo said.

#### **Table salary hikes of soldiers**

House of Representatives assistant minority leader Neil Abayon of Aangas Tayo party list has urged President Duterte to expedite increasing salary of soldiers and policemen as a reward for their selfless sacrifice to liberate Marawi City.

This as AFP is set to officially liberate the city from Maute invasion tomorrow, less than two weeks before the Asean summit in Pasay City beginning on Nov. 11, 2017.

"I laud the Duterte administration for the compensation adjustment for cops and soldiers. Currently, for example, a Police Officer 1 receives a basic monthly salary of P14,834.

Call center agents receive better pay than that. If the pay adjustment gets implemented, every PO1 shall be receiving a basic monthly salary of P29,668 (a 100 percent increase).

Such move shall boost the morale of our law enforcers. Relatedly, I filed House Bill 6187 "Stakeholder Support to Military and Other Armed Services Personnel Act" last August.

HB 6187 seeks to give active duty soldiers and veteran soldiers benefits similar to most of the benefits now available to senior citizens.

**Charlie V. Manalo, Alvin Murcia,  
Ed Velasco**

October 2017

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## Hapilon's cousin, 9 others surrender

**NINE members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) surrendered to authorities over the past weeks including the cousin of ASG and Maute-ISIS leader Isnilon Hapilon who was killed in a military assault in Marawi City.**

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo said one of the nine bandits who surrendered was identified as Ben Salina Sapilin alias Ben, cousin of Hapilon.

Sapilin surrendered to the 74th Infantry Battalion on October 17, along with Ramu Sapilin and Muhammad Endeng.

"We were able to identify Ben Salina Sapilin who uses the alias 'Ben,' a cousin of Isnilon Hapilon. He along with other members Ramu Sapilin and Muhammad Endeng surrendered to troops of the 74th Infantry Battalion on 17 October 2017 in Al Barka, Basilan. They brought along with them three high-powered firearms," Arevalo said.

As of press time, the military had already neutralized 325 ASG fighters.

Of the number, 124 were killed in combat operation, 82 were arrested and 119 voluntarily surrendered.

Arevalo said the surrender of the terrorists resulted from the AFP's combined focused combat, intelligence, and civil-military operations in cooperation with the local governments in the strife area.

He said in September alone, 15 Abu Sayyaf terrorists gave themselves up to the AFP. And on September 30, 2017 three other ASGs under the late Sub-leader alias Ninok Sappari voluntarily surrendered with their high-powered firearms to the 32nd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army.

In Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa) a certain Boy Indama, one of the jail escapees in Basilan Provincial Jail in December 2009 was re-arrested by combined police and military on September 28.

"The AFP sees the mass surrenders of the Abu Sayyaf as indicator of the weakening proliferation of terrorism and violent extremism in the country, an upshot of the gains in the Marawi operations," Arevalo said.

**Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca**

October 2017

Makila  
**Standard**

Page. A1

# MANHUNT ON FOR 5 TOP ISIS REMNANTS

By Francisco Tuyay

**W**ESTERN Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. has said government security forces are tracking down five terrorists who have the potential to continue the ISIS caliphate threat in the country.

Galvez on GMA News TV program "State of the Nation with Jessica Soho" said they were searching for Malaysian terrorist Amin Bacu, an Indonesian terrorist, and three of Hapilon's children.

He said in a radio interview the security forces were just zeroing in on the top two defiant foreign terrorists defending their last bastion, with the military foreseeing

the closing of curtain of the dark episode of Marawi City from the clutches of evil.

Galvez said Islamic State militants—two Malaysians including Amin Bacu and an Indonesian jihadist identified as Ibnu Kayin—were the remaining terrorists, now the target of the military's finishing touches to finally declare the Marawi City siege over. **Turn to A2**

Aside from the terrorist stragglers, Galvez said the troops were also relentlessly tracking down the three sons of Isnilon Hapilon who were with the foreign Islamic militants still resisting the military's might.

Hapilon, the emir of ISIS in South-east Asia and Omar Maute, Hapilon's conduit in the terrorist organization in Mindanao, were both killed by a military sniper while attempting to escape at the height of battle inside the main battle area last week.

Hapilon and Maute's killing virtually liberated Marawi City from terrorist occupation for almost five months.

With the looming killing of the remnants of terrorists facing imminent collapse, Galvez projected the ending of the Marawi crisis by Sunday.

"Most probably tomorrow, we can do it. We can declare it is totally complete," Galvez projected during the weekend.

Malaysian militant Amin Bacu were with four other ISIS fighters, mostly Malaysians, who sought sanctuary in Mindanao after the Malaysians launched a crackdown against ISIS elements in their country last 2013.

Bacu's cohorts included University Malaya lecturer Dr. Mahmud Ahmad; stationary shop owner Mohd Najib Husen; former Selayang Municipal Council employee Muhammad Joraimie Awang Raimie, and Jeknal Adil, of Darul Islam Sabah.

The military claimed to have killed Dr. Ahmad, the planner and financier of the Marawi attack. Troops are currently tracking where Ahmad's body was buried.

Galvez said Bacu took over the reins of leadership from Hapilon's death and in control of the deployment of Islamic militants in the region.

However, Galvez said they could not totally declare that its mission was accomplished until they eliminated the five persons still within the battle zone trying to survive.

Meanwhile, a cousin of Hapilon, along with eight others who operate in Basilan, voluntarily surrendered to military authorities Saturday.

AFP Public Affairs Office head, Col. Edgard Arevalo, identified Hapilon's cousin as Ben Salina Sapilin, alias Ben.

"We were able to identify Ben Salina Sapilin who uses the alias "Ben" a cousin of Isnilon Hapilon. He along with other members Ramu Sapilin and Muhamad Endeng surrender to the troops of the 74th Infantry Battalion on October 17 in Albarka Basilan. They brought along with them three high-powered firearms," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said a total 325 ASG members had been neutralized while 124 were killed in military operations; 882 were arrested and 119 surrendered.

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**TEMPO**

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# Military hunting 20 remaining militants

MARAWI CITY (Reuters) – The Philippines is preparing to declare the end of fighting in a southern city seized for five months by pro-Islamic State rebels, a top military commander said yesterday, as troops continued a phased withdrawal from the devastated lakeside city.

Only 20 insurgents remained in a small area in Marawi City, including five "significant" figures, and three battalions of troops were closing in on their positions, said Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez.

"Most probably tomorrow, we can do it," Galvez told reporters when asked when the military can declare fighting is over. "We can declare it is totally complete."

Galvez said troops are zeroing in on three sons of Isnilon Hapilon, the slain "emir" of Islamic State in Southeast Asia, and two Malaysians, including Amin Baco, who has been central to facilitating the movement of foreign fighters in the region.

"We cannot say our mission is totally accomplished or completed if the five persons are still there," he said, adding the remaining militants are "struggling to survive" and to protect their shrinking position.

Another general told Reuters they were also looking for a prominent Indonesian militant. The military is concerned Hapilon's sons and these foreign fighters could succeed core leaders of the alliance killed this week.

Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute

were killed by commandos on Monday. Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, who experts say may have funded the Marawi siege, was also dead, according to a freed hostage, but his body has yet to be found.

The defense ministry said on Saturday that forensic tests by the Federal Bureau of Investigation had confirmed that the man killed was Hapilon. The United States has provided technical support to treaty ally the Philippines, including surveillance drones.

The deaths of the leaders could slow down any effort by Islamic State to establish a presence in Mindanao, a vast island with a history of rebellion and home to the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's Muslim minority.

The organization and combat capability of the rebels has stunned the military. Some experts see the siege as a prelude to a more ambitious bid by Islam-

ic State loyalists to exploit Mindanao's poverty and use its jungles and mountains as a base to train, recruit, and launch attacks in the region.

The military declined to divulge the number of troops remaining in Marawi. Elite commandos were leading the assault, with Army infantry battalions and police commandos securing safe areas.

The military said eleven hostages were "processed" yesterday to determine whether or not they were really captives or militant members and sympathizers trying to slip away.

Galvez said rehabilitation, including retrieval of the dead, would start after the end of hostilities is declared.

The Philippines estimates the rebuilding of areas battered by months of government air strikes could cost at least 150 billion (\$971 million). (Reuters)



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**Tempo**

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## 3 battalions of soldiers closing in on remaining 20 militants

MARAWI CITY (Reuters) – The Philippines is preparing to declare the end of fighting in a southern city seized for five months by pro-Islamic State rebels, a top military commander said yesterday, as troops continued a phased withdrawal from the devastated lakeside city.

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**PRESIDENT Duterte exhorts troops of the Army 1st Infantry Battalion who were preparing to leave at the Laguindingan Airport in Cagayan de Oro City. The 1st IB were among the first units deployed in Marawi City when the battle against the terrorists broke out almost five months ago. (Presidential photo)**

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### 2 BIFF men killed, 5 soldiers hurt in Maguindanao clashes

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao — Two Moro jihadists were killed while five soldiers were hurt in the latest spate of hostilities in Maguindanao, the military said. In a report released on Friday, the Army's 6th Infantry Division (6ID) said two members of the ISIS-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed when the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion fired artillery fire toward Barangay Pagatin 1 in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao, late Thursday afternoon. Capt. Arvin John Encinas, 6ID spokesman, said that prior to the running gunbattle, five soldiers were hurt when suspected BIFF members tossed a hand grenade before nighttime on the Army's 57th IB roadside detachment in Barangay Labo-Labo, Shariff Aguak, also in Maguindanao. The victims, Sgt. Allan Labuyo, Cpl. Ebrahim Meto and Pvts. 1st Class Arnel Aspacio, Fernando Tangara, and John Mark Arroyo, sustained shrapnel wounds in different parts of their body. Major Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, 6th ID chief, said the grenade attack was to avenge the death of two BIFF members, identified as Norolam and Saiden Kasan, during Thursday's 3 p.m. military artillery shelling in Datu Sraidona, Maguindanao. The Army launched the artillery bombardment after local residents alerted the military and government ally, Moro Islamic Liberation Front about the presence of some 30 BIFF elements in Barangay Pagatin 1. The slain BIFF members were followers of Esmael Abdulmalik, leader of a faction of the BIFF that pledged allegiance to the ISIS.

PNA

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## ASG member in kidnapping nabbed

**GOVERNMENT** forces arrested a member of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) involved in the Sipadan kidnapping during their operation the other day in Zamboanga City.

This was confirmed by Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-Westmincom) spokesperson Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay.

Petinglay identified the suspect as Mansur Radallan, 37, ASG notorious member linked to the Sipadan kidnapping in 2001.

The bandit was arrested at around 4:25 a.m. along Mangal Drive, Bahwasan, Zamboanga City by elements of Joint Task Force Zamboanga and Zamboanga City Police Office.

He was nabbed based on a warrant of arrest issued by the court.

Seized from Radallan were a rifle grenade and explosive components.

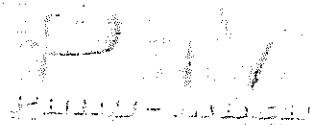
Aside from the Sipadan kidnapping in 2001, Radallan was also involved in the foiled abduction of Dr. Armando Iturralde in Barangay Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City in 2015.

According to Col. Leonel Nicolas, commander of the JTF Zamboanga, the suspect was brought to the ZCPO for the filing of charges, while the confiscated items were turned over to the ZCPO bomb squad for safekeeping.

Petinglay said from January 2017 to this date, government forces have apprehended a total of 82 Abu Sayyaf members, 12 of whom were arrested in Basilan, 47 in Sulu, seven in Tawi-Tawi, and 16 in Zamboanga City.

AFP Westmincom commander Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr. said troops will continue to coordinate with the local government and police in securing the city from the threats posed by the ASG to ensure that no terrorists will be coddled in Zamboanga Peninsula. **Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca**

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Pahina. 2

### **Marawi, bantay-sarado pa rin sa militar**

Inihayag kahapon ng Malacañang na mahigpit pa ring nagbabantay ang tropa ng gobyerno laban sa mga natitirang terorista sa Marawi City kahit pa nagdeklara na ng liberation si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella, bagaman at sinimulan na ang pag-pull-out ng mga sundalo sa Marawi City hindi nangangahulugan na tapos na talaga ang labanan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng mga natitira pang miyembro ng Maute terrorist group.

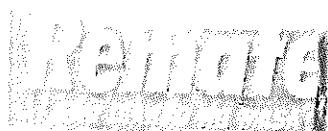
Sinabi ni Abella na kahit pa nabawasan ang puwersa ng mga kalaban, patuloy pa ring magiging alerto ang tropa ng gobyerno para na rin sa kaligtasan ng mga residente.

"While enemy force has greatly diminished, we will continue to be alert and assure the residents of the city that we will not compromise its security with the presence of some units of the Armed Forces," pahayag ni Abella.

Tiniyak din ni Abella na hindi hihinto ang gobyerno sa pagbabantay sa iba pang lugar na posibleng manganib sa natitirang network ng Maute group habang isinasagawa ang rehabilitasyon sa Marawi. *Matou Escudero*

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Pahina. 2

## Mga naiwang sundalo sa Marawi nakaalerto pa rin

**NAKAALERTO** pa rin ang mga naiwang unit ng Armed Forces of the Philippines sa Marawi City matapos na simulan ng militar ang pagpullout sa ilang sundalo ilang araw makaraang ideklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na malaya na ang siyudad sa impluwensiya ng mga terorista.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella na hindi ikokompromiso ang seguridad ng mga residente ng Marawi lalo pa't patuloy pa rin ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng ilang miyembro ng Maute group at tropa ng pamahalaan.

Aniya, ang pagpullout sa may 500 mga sundalo sa Marawi ay hindi nangangahulugan na tapos na ang giyera sa nasabing lungsod.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr. pinauwi na ng militar ang 1st Infantry Battalion para sa "much-needed break" at para na rin sa pagsasanay sa susunod na assignment ng mga ito matapos ang limang-buwang pakikipagbakbakan sa Marawi.

Isa aniya sa unang grupo ng sundalo na ipinadala sa Marawi, tumanggap din ang 1st IB na pinamumunuan ni Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, ng Silver Cross Medal at isang Command Plaque mula sa Western Mindanao Command para sa pagrescue sa 34 na bihag.

Naniniwala si Maj. Gen. Padilla na isa ang pangakong bakasyon sa Hong Kong sa nagsilbing motivation ng mga sundalo para magtagumpay.

### Gastos sa rehabilitasyon sa Marawi

#### isasapubliko

**ISASAPUBLIKO** ng Malakanyang ang lahat ng gagastusin at gagawing reconstruction at rebuilding effort sa Marawi City.

Ito'y para ipakita sa sambayanang Filipino na wala ni isa mang kusing o sentimo ang mapupunta sa bulsa ng hahawak sa pagbangon ng Marawi.

Tinyak ni Presidential Communications Office Sec. Martin

Andanar na magiging transparent ang gobyerno sa lahat ng gagawin nito sa Marawi.

Siniguro ni Andanar na hindi matutulad ang Marawi sa naging karanasan ng mga luger na naapektuhan noon ng bagyong Yolanda kung saan nagkaroon ng pagkaantala sa mga rehab effort.

Sa ngayon, patuloy ang pagtanggap ng gobyerno sa mga donasyon mula sa mga nais magbigay ng tulong ngunit tiniyak ni Andanar na kahit wala ang mga nasabing ayuda, kaya pa rin itong isagawa.

Sa kabilang dako, isang araw pagkatapos ianunsyo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang liberation of Marawi ay kaagad silang nagpulong para itatag ang gagawing pagsasaaayos sa lungsod.

Kasabay nito, ianunsyo ni Andanar na maglulunsad sila ng Bangon Marawi Hour para mai-report sa sambayanan ang day-to-day updates sa rehabilitasyon.

### Alerto sa resbak ng iba pang Maute

**HINIHIMOK** ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang publiko na manatiling alerto sa posibilidad na maglunsad ng pagresbak ang natitirang miyembro ng Maute terror group kasunod ng pagkatalo sa giyera nito para makuha ang Marawi City.

Ayon kay Major General Restituto Padilla, Jr., ang tagapagsalita ng AFP, bagamat lumilit na ang puwersa ng teroristang grupo, 'di pa rin maiiwas na gumanti ito habang may naiwan pang mga miyembro at tagasuporta.

Tinukoy na halimbawa ni Padilla ang pagbagsak ng ISIS sa Gitnang Silangan na kahit humina ang kapabilidad nito na bumuo ng mas malaking puwersa at mabawi ang kontrol

sa kanilang mga teritoryo, maituturing pa rin silang banta sa seguridad.

Mas mapanganib aniya ang mga naiwang puwersa na karanawan ay solo o maliit na grupong ilang na naglulunsad ng mga pagatake tulad ng nangyari sa Europe at Great Britain.

Iginili ni Padilla na ang responsibilidad sa seguridad ay hindi lamang nasa balikat ng mga otoridad kundi maging ng publiko dahil mahalaga aniya ang mas maraming mata ang magbabantay sa pananabotaha.

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# INQUIRER

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## Why it took 5 months to end Marawi siege

MARAWI CITY—Soldiers lacked training and equipment for urban warfare which stretched the military campaign to rid the city of Islamic State (IS) followers to five months, according to a key ground commander here.

Col Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the military's Joint Task Group-Ranao, said officers had to improvise in terms of deploying troopers, equipment and using tactics to defeat members of homegrown terror groups Abu Sayyaf and Maute, who had tried to establish an IS base in this predominantly Muslim city.

The government had declared the liberation of the city from IS, although fighting continued to finish off what the military now refers to as "stragglers," or remnants of Abu Sayyaf and Maute, still holed up in the city.

Brawner said that despite the shortcomings in equipment and training, improvisations had led to key accomplishments that included the killing of IS leaders—siblings Abdullah, Madie and Omar Maute and IS Southeast Asia "emir" Isnilon Hapilon of Abu Sayyaf.

### 900 terrorists dead

Terrorist casualty had reached 900 as of Saturday while the government lost 164 policemen and soldiers. At least 1,700 other government forces had been injured, mainly from improvised explosive devices and sniper fire.

"We have learned so many lessons here," Brawner said. "We never had experience in urban warfare. We were trained on jungle warfare but we did



HOME FROM MARAWI Hundreds of Philippine Marines arrive at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Saturday after months of fighting in Marawi City.

our best," he said.

A ground commander, who talked on condition of anonymity, said soldiers had expected to fight in forested areas but came to realize that they were to engage in close quarter battles in buildings and tunnels.

"We came to realize that our training was not appropriate," the commander said.

"We were trained to fight in the jungle and in the mountains. Now here comes this situation where we had to take down enemies amid the maze of buildings dotting narrow streets," the commander said.

He said that in the initial assault by government forces in an inner part of the city, he had ordered mortars fired but realized that these were not effective.

"We intended to surprise the enemies but we were the ones surprised in the end," he said.

"The exploding mortar shells barely made a dent on buildings because these had been fortified. Hollow blocks were rarely used in construction of buildings here. Those were made of solid concrete," the commander added as he pointed to a row of buildings that soldiers had retaken after more than three months of fighting since June.

### Improvisation

"In the end, we did it but so much improvisation had been used. I just can't say what these were," the commander said.

Brawner said the lessons that the war in the city offered would be even-

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tually part of the military's training manual.

"We will have to amend our doctrine," Brawner said. "We have to retrain our soldiers," he said.

He said he saw urban warfare to be the battle of the future.

Despite the lack of equipment for urban warfare, Brawner said the military had done its job and was proud of it.

Soldiers, he said, "showed determination even with their limited capability to defeat the enemy."

"We have shown that we were able to adjust," he said.

Government forces, he added, had to make do with existing equipment. Transport planes for troop deployment, tanks and other weapons that had been products of previous modernization programs helped a lot, he said.

#### **Impressive**

Lack of transport planes, like C-130s, did not hinder troop deployment, according to Brawner. "We managed to move in as many battalions as we can," he said. "Maute did not expect we could do it in so short a time," he added.

Brawner said soldiers made the most out of equipment available to them even if these were not enough.

"Even armies of other countries were impressed because while we lacked equipment, we did the job," he added.

The military, Brawner said, was also proud of its achievements in terms of dealing with civilians caught in the fighting. "It reinforced our sensitivity," he said.

Soldiers, he said, had quickly ad-

justed to the culture of Maranaos.

In the early days of the fighting, the military deployed female soldiers to man checkpoints. Women took charge of inspecting female commuters or motorists as Islamic laws prohibited men from laying their hands on women unless they were married.

"And you saw that we did not commit human rights violations," Brawner said.

#### **Different martial law**

"This martial law was very different in the sense that our soldiers really respected civilian rights," he said. Complaints against soldiers, he added, were immediately acted upon.

Two nongovernment organizations, however, disagreed with Brawner's narrative. Suara Bangsamoro and Tindeg Ranao said they were still calling for an investigation of rights abuses and an immediate lifting of martial law.

The groups said an independent body should probe the abuses committed during the war.

The government, said Jerome Aba of Suara Bangsamoro, "should be held responsible for the deaths and displacement of Marawi residents and the destruction of their communities."

Tindeg Ranao said Maranaos continued to suffer in evacuation camps.

Brawner said accusations of human rights violations against soldiers had to be validated. The destruction of structures was part of war, he added.

"In general, I can say that we did a great job of protecting our country from terror here," he said. —ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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The Manila Times

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## 'Hostages, terrorists mixing up' in Marawi

REMAINING hostages and members of the Islamic State-linked Maute Group have been "mixing up" within the main battle area in Marawi City, prompting the military to order segregation. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año said on Thursday night.

Año disclosed that the military's intelligence unit and ground commanders would have to conduct assessments to enable them to distinguish civilian hostages from their captors who are members of the terrorist Maute group.

"We have to validate who are the legitimate hostages and the [Maute] fighters. The hostages and the fighters are mixing up. We have to segregate who are the [Islamic State members] there and who are the real hostages as well," Año told reporters on the sidelines of his testimonial parade at the Philippine Army Headquarters in Taguig City on Thursday evening.

As of Wednesday evening's count, he said around 20 hostages have been rescued by government forces. Out of the said number, at least 10 were determined to be real hostages.

"The others, we suspected as members of the Maute [Group]," Año said.

In two separate assault operations conducted Wednesday evening and early Thursday morning, about 20 terrorists have been killed including Dr. Mahmud Ah-

mad, believed to be the successor of Isnilon Hapilon as "emir" of the Islamic State for southeast Asia.

Año confirmed that information on Ahmad's death came from a certain Magina, a "prominent" female hostage.

"She revealed the information that Dr. Mahmud was killed [on Wednesday night] and he was buried on that night by the remaining Maute fighters," he said.

"Now, our task is to find or look for the grave and I believe that hostage because there were other several confirmatory reports that Dr. Mahmud has been killed," the AFP chief said.

Soldiers were also directed to hunt down the people who buried Ahmad's remains.

"The reason we are looking for [Maute members who buried Ahmad] is because these hostages are not privy to that," Año said.

Military records showed that about 897 terrorists, including the leaders of the group, have been killed in the fighting, which dragged for several months in the city. Meanwhile, 164 soldiers have been reported to have died in battle while 47 civilians were registered as casualties.

Troops also recovered 850 firearms from the terrorists. At least 22 unexploded ordnances have been retrieved while two improvised explosive devices have been seized as well. **DEMPSEY REYES**

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# INQUIRER

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## MILITARY MAY DECLARE END OF MARAWI FIGHTING TODAY, SAYS ARMY GENERAL

MARAWI CITY—The Philippines is preparing to declare the end of fighting in Marawi, which was seized for five months by pro-Islamic State (IS) rebels, a top military commander said on Saturday, as troops continued a phased withdrawal from the devastated lakeside city.

Only 20 insurgents remained in a small area in the Islamic city, including five “significant” figures and three battalions of troops were closing in on their positions, said Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez.

“Most probably tomorrow, we can do it,” Galvez told reporters who asked when the military could declare the fighting was over. “We can declare it is totally complete.”

Galvez said troops were zeroing in on three sons of Isnilon Hapilon, the slain “emir” of IS in Southeast Asia, and two Malaysians, including Amin Baco, who has been central to facilitating the movement of foreign fighters in the region.

“We cannot say our mission is totally accomplished or completed if the five persons are still there,” he said, adding the remaining militants were “struggling to survive” and protecting their shrinking position.

### Possible succession

Another general told Reuters news agency troops were also looking for a prominent Indonesian militant.

The military was concerned Hapilon’s sons and these foreign fighters could succeed the core leaders of the alliance killed this week.

Hapilon and Omar Maute were killed by commandos on Monday. Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, who experts say may have funded the Marawi siege, was also dead, according to a



Military snipers scan for enemy targets inside the war zone in Marawi City. —JEFFREY MAITEM

freed hostage, but his body has yet to be found.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Saturday that DNA tests by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had confirmed that one of the men killed was Hapilon.

The United States has provided technical support, including surveillance drones, to the Philippines, its treaty ally.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the pullout of troops from Marawi, which started on Friday, “does not signal the end of fighting between our troops and Maute terrorist-stragglers.”

Government forces would ensure Marawi’s security even after the deaths of Hapilon, Maute and Mahmud.

“While the enemy force has greatly diminished, we will continue to be alert and assure the residents of the city that we will not compromise its security with the presence of some units of the Armed Forces,” he said.

The deaths of the militant leaders could slow down any effort by IS to establish a presence in Mindanao, a vast island with a history of rebel-

lion and home to the predominantly Roman Catholic nation’s Muslim minority.

Some experts see the siege as a prelude to a more ambitious bid by IS loyalists to exploit Mindanao’s poverty and use its jungles and mountains as a base to train, recruit and launch attacks in the region.

Galvez inspected troops in Marawi and sent off a battalion of Marines central to military operations. It was the second unit to leave the conflict area.

The military declined to divulge the number of troops remaining in Marawi. Elite commandos were leading the assault, with Army infantry battalions and police commandos securing safe areas.

Galvez said rehabilitation, including retrieval of the dead, would start after the end of hostilities is declared.

The Philippines estimates the rebuilding of areas battered by months of government airstrikes, which displaced hundreds of thousands of Marawi residents, could cost at least P50 billion (\$971 million).

—WITH REPORTS FROM REUTERS AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

October 2017

**NGAYON**

Pahina. 2

# Marawi war tatapusin ngayon! - AFP

Pormal nang ideklara ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na "totally free" o tapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City at wala na ring baril na puputok sa lungsod.

Ito ang inangunsiyo kahapon ni AFP Western Mindanao Command chief, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.

Ang hakbang ng AFP ay kasunod na rin sa pagpullout kahapon ng Marine Landing Battalion Teams at Marine Special Operations Group.

Ang nasabing tropa ay babalik na sa kanilang mother unit sa Philippine Marine Corps headquarters sa Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City na sasabak

## Ni JOY CANTOS

sa panibagong re-training bago muling ideploy sa panibagong assignment.

Gayunman aminado ang heneral na hindi pa masasabi na "totally completed" na ang kanilang misyon.

Aniya, meron pa umang ilang personalidad na kaanib ng mga terorista ang hinahabol, pero kayang-kaya na ito ng mga matitirang tropa ng pamahalaan sa main battle area.

Sinabi ni Galvez na limang prominenteng lider na lamang ng ISIS na sina Amin Bako, isang Malaysian at Ibnu Kayin, Indonesian gayundin ang tatlong anak ni Isnilon

Hapilon ang kanilang target na namumuno sa tinatayang nasa 20 na lamang Maute-ISIS fighters sa battle zone.

"We are confident matatapos natin eto hanggang Linggo (Oktubre 22), konti na lang ang target ng ating tropa, kakayanin natin eto para finally eh we can declare Marawi City totally free, no more terrorists and no more armed clashes, wala nang baril na puputok," ani Galvez.

Sa kasalukuyan, apat na lang na pawang mga lalaki ang nalalabing hostage ng mga terorista na nagkukubli sa tatlo na lamang gusali sa battle zone.

Inihayag naman ni AFP spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., na wala ng lulusutan ang mga terorista dahil napaalibutan na ang mga ito ng tropang gobyerno kaya wala na ang mga itong pagpipilian pa kundi ang ibaba ang kanilang mga armas at sumuko.

"Sila naman ay cornered na, wala na silang lalabasan. Wala na silang pinupuntahan. Kaya hinihimok natin silang sumuko na lang," sabi pa ng opisyal.

Nitong Oktubre 17 idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte na "liberated" na sa mga terorista ang Marawi makaraang mapatay ang mga kilabot na kumander ng Maute-ISIS inspired group na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.

Bago ito, sinabi naman ni Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana na tinatayang nasa P5 bilyon na rin ang nagagastos ng militar sa giyera sa Marawi.

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# No dead-end streets in Marawi proposed

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

There should be no more dead-end streets in battle-scarred Marawi City, Senator Francis Escudero proposed in

the wake of the siege by militants.

He said any comprehensive urban renewal must have blue prints that call for city blocks bounded by streets that are parallel or perpendicular. ▶7

“Mas madaling mag-deliver ng basic services, mas madaling mag-identify ng mga lugar at mas madali rin at maayos ang magiging buhay ng ating mga kababayan dun (It is easier to deliver basic services, it is faster to identify the area, and it will make the lives of our fellow Filipinos orderly),” Escudero said.

Escudero recalled how Philippine soldiers had a difficult time retaking Marawi City during the five-month siege because the city's streets are not straight and are full of dead ends.

“Pagkakataon na ito sa parte ng gobyerno na ayusin at iwasto yung mga pagkukulang at pagkakamali sa pag-develop ng Marawi ng mga naunang panahon (Now is the chance for the government to correct past mistakes in the development of Marawi City),” he told Senate reporters during the regular “Kapihan sa Senado” press forum.

During debates on the Senate floor, Sen. Richard Gordon said the re-development of Marawi should be along long-accepted western concept of urban renewal.

Sen. Loren Legarda, chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee, said she has set aside P10 billion in the proposed P34.76-trillion national budget for 2018 for the rehabilitation of Marawi but this still is subject to approval by her colleagues when the national budget goes through the second and third reading phases in law making.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana had said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said spent over P5 billion in the Marawi siege that followed the attack by the Islamist State-linked Maute

## Group

The money was spent on ammunition, fuel, food, and allowances for soldiers in the last four months.

Felino A. Palafox Jr., a prominent Filipino architect, urban planner and environmentalist, has committed to help in the reconstruction of Marawi.

He has recommended to local officials of Lanao del Sur to make the ruins of Marawi a historic memorial as a lesson for the future on how terrorism can destroy a peaceful city.

“We still believe that ground zero should be preserved as a lesson for future generations,” he said.

Local officials have reportedly accepted in principle his recommendation but their only concern was the social acceptance, he added.

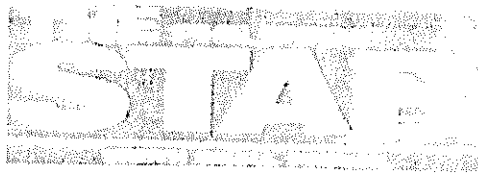
Palafox has lectured in Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and in 16 other countries in Asia, Europe and North America.

He was cited by Forbes Asia Magazine as one of the 48 Heroes of Philanthropy in Asia, one of four in the Philippines.

Palafox led and managed his firm, Palafox Associates, in the planning of more than 16 billion square meters of land and the design and architecture of more than 12 million square meters of building floor area in 38 countries.

The firm has also received more than 200 awards and recognition in the past 25 years, most notably as the first Filipino architectural firm included in the Top 500 Architectural Firms in the World of the London-based World Architecture Magazine in 1999.

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# 'Let single gov't agency handle Marawi rehab'

By MARVIN SY

**A single government body or agency should be in charge of rebuilding Marawi, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.**

Citing the experience in the rehabilitation of areas hit by Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Visayas, Lacson said many agencies were involved and everyone is "doing their own thing."

"Only one body should be in charge when there is a calamity or disaster whether natural or man-made," Lacson said in an interview over radio station *dwIZ*.

He said President Duterte could create the agency, which will be under the Office of the President, through an executive order.

As presidential assistant for rehabilitation and recovery during the Aquino administration, Lacson lamented that he was not able to accomplish much because he did not have any authority. He had earlier criticized the

"lack of focus" of concerned government agencies.

Lacson said many lessons learned during his stint as Yolanda rehabilitation czar are being addressed by the agencies tasked to oversee the rehabilitation of Marawi.

Lacson commended Task Force Bangon Marawi for conducting post-disaster needs assessment. He said the assessment would give the task force an idea of how much funding is required.

He also stressed the need to amend Republic Act 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Manage-

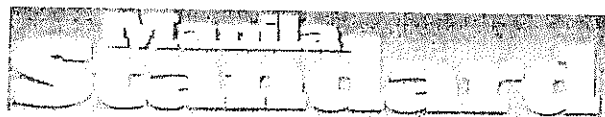
ment Act.

At least P50 billion will be needed to rehabilitate Marawi, which will take three years to complete, Defense Secretary and Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman Delfin Lorenzana said during a recent Senate hearing.

Sen. Miguel Zubiri sought the approval of a supplemental budget to cover the reconstruction cost, which he said was not included in the proposed P3.767 trillion national budget for 2018.

The President declared Marawi liberated from Maute militants on Tuesday.

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## MARAWI PLAN GETS P350-M QUICK FUND

THE Department of Health has received P350 million in quick release funds, in addition to the almost P137 million the agency has spent for infrastructure rehabilitation efforts in war-ravaged Marawi City.

In an interview on dzBB on Saturday, DOH OIC-Secretary Herminigildo Valle said the amount for infrastructure rehabilitation would mostly come from Task Force Bangon Marawi, but a part of it would be contributed by the DOH.

He said the amount would be used for rehabilitating partially and completely damaged buildings.

The DOH is part of the inter-agency task force created by President Rodrigo Duterte to head the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for Marawi.

Task Force Bangon Marawi is headed by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Valle added the Amaj Pakpak Medical Center, located at "ground zero" of the siege, was already in operation, and its some 120 staff members were conducting medical care functions such as surgeries, dialysis and intensive care.

Additionally, the officer-in-charge said he had oriented the health workers at the hospital to "understand" and "anticipate the

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### MARAWI...

From A1

need to provide medical care" that would be needed in time for the return of the city's displaced residents.

Staff shortage is being augmented by health workers from different regions, Valle said.

Meanwhile, a total 22 public schools in Marawi City were totally damaged by the war that lasted over four months, a Department of Education official said Saturday.

DepEd Undersecretary Alain del Pascua, in an in-

terview on dzBB, said the affected school buildings were either hit by bombs or were burned.

Schools totally destroyed are in the main battle area, Pascua added.

DepEd authorities are still determining the extent of the damage to the 22 schools.

Last July, the DepEd reported that 10 schools were destroyed just over month into the Marawi siege, and that repairs could cost up to P800 million.

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## DoH gets P350M for Marawi infra rehab

By LEE ANN P. DUCUSIN

THE Department of Health has recently received P350-million in quick release funds, in addition to the almost P137-million that the agency has spent for infrastructure rehabilitation efforts in the war-ravaged Marawi City.

Health OIC-Secretary Hermimigildo Valle said the

amount for infrastructure rehabilitation would mostly come from Task Force Bangon Marawi, but a part of it would be contributed by the DoH.

"Almost mga P137-million na ating nagagastos diyari, plus meron pang P350 milyon na quick release funds na nakuha namin recently, gagamitin din diyari sa infrastructure, sa rehabilitation," he said.

Valle said the amount would be used for rehabi-

litating partially and completely damaged buildings.

The DoH is part of the inter-agency task force created by President Rodrigo Duterte to spearhead recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for Marawi. Task Force Bangon Marawi is headed by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Valle added that the Amai Pakpak Medical Center, located at "ground zero" of the siege, is already in operation, and its some 120 staff members are conducting medical care functions such as surgeries, dialysis and intensive care.

The OIC further said that he had oriented the health workers at the hospital to understand and anticipate the need to provide medical care that would be needed in time for the return of the city's displaced residents.

He added staff shortage is being augmented by health workers from different regions.

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## Ping: No reason to conduct probe on Marawi siege

**SENATOR Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday said that he sees no reason to conduct a Congressional inquiry on the Marawi City siege.**

Lacson stressed that the government troops had done all its best to neutralize the Maute group for five months under martial law in southern region.

"I don't think so. Alam mo dapat wala tayong alisin sa kabayanihan ng mga sundalo natin doon eh.

Kapag pinasukan ng Kongreso 'yan pinambestiga, para ano pa? At wala, ginawa lahat ng military, nakita natin ang ginawa nilang operation. Bawat isang buhay nawala roon I'm sure may story behind sa kanilang kabayanihan," said Lacson in a radio interview when asked if Congressional inquiry is still needed.

Lacson believes that if the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) declares final end of war, lifting martial law follows.

"Siguro kasumod na 'yan. Kaya nag-schedule na ang Pangulo (Duterte) ng pakikipagusap sa Gabinete para pagusapan nila ano ang magiging decision sa martial law sa Mindanao," said Lacson.

He added that the AFP continues with its investigation to determine how the Maute group were able to prepare or plan and gather weapons, ammunitions and foods in launching the siege.

"I think patuloy ang isinasagawang investigation ng military diyan pati ng mga awtoridad kung paano nakaimbak at nakapaghanda nang matindi ang Maute group, ang ISIS-inspired na Maute group. So kasama yan sa kanilang ginagawa sa ngayon. I think tuluy-tuloy ang investigation nila riyon," added Lacson.

**Marlon Purificacion**

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## To lift or not to lift M'danao martial law, that is the question

By Efren Montano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte and the Cabinet are set to discuss whether to lift or extend martial law in Mindanao following the liberation of Marawi City from pro-Islamic State (IS) terrorists, Presidential spokesperson Linares-Abella said.

Abella said that Duterte would meet with the security, justice, and peace clusters of the Cabinet, including martial law administrator and implementor Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año, to discuss "the necessary action to be taken."

Padilla said the military would continue its work within the current martial law time frame.

"What we will do is to address the remaining networks and the other terrorist organizations," Padilla said.

He said earlier that martial law helped law enforcers hold terror suspects for a longer period of time than what was normally allowed by law, allowing security forces and their lawyers to build up cases to file in court.

The President—in an address to the 43rd Philippine Business Conference on Thursday—said that he would not stop the enforcement of martial law in the southern Philippines "until the last terrorist is taken out."

He had declared the liberation of Marawi two days earlier following the killing of the IS "emir" in Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf and Omar Maute of the Maute group, whose fighters had held much of the Islamic city for nearly five months.

Duterte also confirmed the death Wednesday of Hapilon's would-be successor, Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad.

Security officials said Mahmud helped finance the siege of Marawi and linked foreign fighters to the combined Abu Sayyaf-Maute forces.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said freed hostages reported that Mahmud was among 13 terrorists killed in fighting on Wednesday.

The President declared 60 days of martial law on May 23 after the IS-inspired fighters laid siege to Marawi. Congress extended the period to the end of the year.

The deaths of three top terrorist leaders would "not automatically result in the lifting of martial law," Abella said. Their network of followers and supporters still posed a threat, he added.

"The President is duty-bound not to compromise public safety," Abella said.

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## IS claims deadly attack on mosque in Kabul

**BEIRUT** – The Islamic State group said it carried out a gun and bomb attack on a Shiite mosque in Kabul on Friday that killed at least 39 people, including children.

“The martyrdom-seeking brother Abu Ammar al-Turkmani... succeeded in immersing himself with an explosive vest in a temple of the polytheists,” IS said in a message on Telegram.

“He detonated his vest among the crowd.”

The Sunni extremists of IS have carried out a spate of bombings against Shiite worshippers, whom it regards as apostates.

The attack, which was one of two targeting mosques in Afghanistan on Friday, capped one of the country’s bloodiest weeks in recent memory, with more than 180 people killed.

**AFP**

3B

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## 47 sets of heavy equipment from China arrive for Marawi rehab

By Jester Manalastas

AT least 47 sets of heavy equipment from the People's Republic of China have arrived for the rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar said the DPWH is now doing roadworks in Marawi after the devastating war between government troops and the Maute Group.

The DPWH will lead the Reconstruction Committee of the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM).

Villar, a former Las Piñas congressman, said the government is still waiting for more equipment from China to aid them in the quick recovery phase of Marawi City.

"Through China's Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Program, we expect seven more heavy equipment to arrive," Villar said.

The newly arrived equipment included eight sets of excavators; eight sets of wheel loaders; five sets of compactors; five

sets of track-type tractors; five sets of bulldozers; eight sets of dump trucks; eight sets of cement mixers and a container van.

Villar said the DPWH has finished site development works for six areas of transitory houses for Marawi siege evacuees.

He said the area can accommodate some 1,100 families.

Villar said road concreting will be completed next month to ensure smooth access to Marawi and its nearby towns.

Meanwhile, Quezon City Rep. Alfred Vargas called on other government agencies to also start working in the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"The most difficult part of ending is beginning again," said Vargas noted, as he expressed support to the plan of the administration to provide a budget amounting to billions of pesos for the immediate rehabilitation of the war-torn city.

Vargas also urged Filipinos to be more vigilant to ensure the protection of peace and order in their respective places and to prevent any further attacks from the terrorists.

"Let this Marawi experience teach us all to endure our trials as a nation, and not to take our peace and freedom for granted. Let us be vigilant and steadfast in protecting the very principles that define our democracy," Vargas said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana earlier said the government needs at least P10 billion to restore the damaged city.

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### **Rebels burn heavy equipment in Butuan**

BUTUAN – Around 50 New People's Army (NPA) rebels stormed a quarry site in this city on Friday night and

burned several heavy equipment.

Three backhoes, a dump truck and a payloader owned by a certain Ali Martinez were set on fire in Purok 7, Sitio Matinao, Barangay Bonbon.

The NPA guerrillas reportedly told the caretaker of the quarry site, Romeo Salado, that the owners of the company refused to pay so-called revolutionary tax for eight years now.

Damage to property was placed at P6 million.

– Ben Serrano

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# BusinessMirror

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## 2 top NPA leaders nabbed in Negros

**BACOLOD CITY:** Two alleged top-ranking officials of the Communist Party of the Philippines – New People’s Army (CPP-NPA) were arrested by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Philippine Army in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Col. Eliezer Losañes, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, identified the two suspects as Louie Antonio Martinez, alias Louie, who ranked No. 4 in the National Military Staff of the CPP-NPA national hierarchy and Aurora Cayon, alias Lilay, said to be a member of the National Finance Commission of the revolutionary movement.

Recovered from their possession were a caliber .45 pistol

with magazine loaded with five live ammunition and a fragmentation grenade during their arrest on Thursday in Barangay 1, Poblacion.

Losañes said Cayon has a pending arrest warrant for robbery with violence or intimidation of a person and arson, while Martinez is facing murder and multiple attempted murder charges.

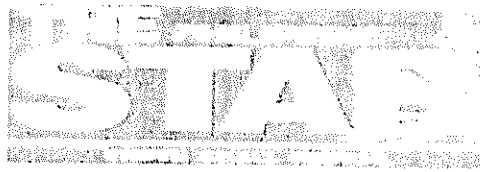
The NPA officers remain under the custody of the CIDG in Bacolod City and will face additional charges for illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Meanwhile, the Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas claimed that one of the arrested suspects is their member.

**EUGENE Y. ADIONG**

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## Case vs ex-PMA heads dismissed

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has dismissed an administrative case against five former presidents of the Philippine Medical Association for fraud in the registration of the Philippine Society for Stem Cell Medicine (PSSCM) in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In a two-page order, the PRC Board of Medicine decided to dismiss the case against doctors Leo Olarte, Bu Castro, Rey Melchor, Oscar Tinio and

Jose Asa Sabili after the complainants submitted an affidavit of desistance saying they realized that the five "have not directly participated in the processing and procurement of the SEC registration of the PSSCM."

The complainants – doctors Miguel Noche Jr., Edgardo Fernando, Restituto de Ocampo, Jose Cueto Jr and Mildred Pareja – added in the affidavit that their decision to permanently withdraw their charge comes after the PRC and SEC investigation failed

to "ascertain who the persons responsible for processing of the SEC registration were."

"In fairness to the respondents, we are permanently withdrawing the case against them and clear them of any liability," the affidavit also read.

The Board of Medicine order was dated March 15, 2017 and signed by chairman Clarita Maano and members Eleanor Almoro, Maria Graciela Gonzaga and Eleonor Galvez. Members Noche and Fernando inhibited themselves as they are among the complainants.

In the charge, the PMA officials were accused of committing "unprofessional and/or unethical conduct" when they applied for the registration of PSSCM with SEC after an alleged endorsement of former PRC Teresita Manzala in February 2013.

Manzala complained that her signature in the endorsement was forged.

The five PMA officials were then incorporators of the PSSCM which was formed to pioneer stem cell practice in the country.

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## 9 Abu Sayyaf men surrender

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

**NINE** members of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) surrendered to authorities over the past weeks including the cousin of ASG and Maute-ISIS leader Isnilon Hapilon who was killed in a military assault operation in Marawi City.

This was according to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office (PAO) Chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo.

Arevalo said among the nine bandits who surrendered, the troops identified one of them as Ben Salina Sapilin alias Ben, cousin of Hapilon.

Sapilin surrendered to the 74th Infantry Battalion on October 17, 2017 along with other members Ramu Sapilin and Muhammad Endeng.

"We were able to identify Ben Salina Sapilin who uses the alias 'Ben' a cousin of Isnilon Hapilon. He, along with other members Ramu Sapilin and Muhammad Endeng, surrendered to troops of the 74th Infantry Battalion on 17 October 2017 in Al Barka,

Basilan. They brought along with them three high-powered firearms," Arevalo said.

As of press time, the military already neutralized 325 ASG personalities.

Of the said number, 124 were killed in combat operations, 82 others were arrested and 119 voluntarily surrendered.

Arevalo said the mass surrender of the terrorists in masses is the result of the AFP's combined focused combat, intelligence, and civil-military operations in cooperation with the local governments in the area.

He said in September alone, 15 Abu Sayyaf terrorists turned themselves to the AFP. On September 30, 2017 there other ASGs under the late sub-leader alias Ninok Sappari voluntarily surrendered with their high-powered firearms to the 82nd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army.

In Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa), a certain Boy Indama, one of the jail escapees in Basilan Provincial Jail in December 2009, was re-arrested by combined police and military on September 28.

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October 2017

**RAYON**

Pahina. 7



### **10 terrorists pa ang nasa Marawi**

SINABI ni Armed Forces spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla na 10 Islamic State-linked Maute terrorists pa ang nasa Marawi City at nakikipaglaban.

Ayon kay Padilla, mauubos ang 10 terorista sa bakbakan kahapon sa main battle area ng Marawi.

Sana nga magkatotoo ang sinabi ni Padilla dahil nga may anim na araw na simula noong napatay ang mga leader ng terrorist group na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute at idineklara na ni President Duterte na "Marawi City is liberated from terrorists".

Sana sa paglipol ng 10 naiiwan ay matutuldukan na ang conflict sa Marawi at mamumuhay na nang matiwasay at tahimik ang mga Maranao.

Bagama't nakapagdeklara na ang Presidente ng "liberation of Marawi City" noong Lunes patuloy pa rin ang mangilang-angilang putukan sa pagitan ng Maute terrorists at government forces sa may main battle area.

Umaasa akong manunumbalik na ang sigla sa Marawi sa kabila ng malawak na pinsala na dulot ng limang buwang bakbakan.

Hindi ko makalimutan ang mukha ni President Duterte noong siya ay nakipagkita sa loob mismo ng Kremlin Grand Palace kay Russian President Vladimir Putin bago niya mada-liang nilisan ang Moscow upang harapin ang gulo sa Marawi noong Mayo 23.

Hindi nag-atubiling nagdesisyon agad-agad ang Presidente na i-cut short ang kanyang state visit sa Russia dahil nga sa pag-atake ng mga teroristang Maute sa Marawi.

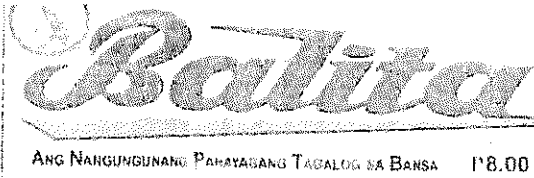
At tiningnan ko ang mukha niya noong dineklara niya ang "liberation" ng Marawi noong nakaraang Lunes.

Bakas sa kanyang mukha ang determinasyong pupuksain niya ang Maute terror group.

Ngunit sa kasalukuyan, may 10 pang teroristang naiiwan. Sana, matuldukan na ang 10 ito.

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**PAGTANAW AT PANANAW**  
**Bert de Guzman**

**N**OOONG isang linggo, napatay ng mga tauhan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang itinuturing na “utak at puso” ng teroristang Maute-ISIS-ASG-Group na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute. Si Hapilon, bukod sa pagiging lider ng kilabot na Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ay siya ring “emir” ng ISIS sa Mindanao at Southeast Asia. Si Omar naman ay kabilang sa magkakapatid na nagtatag sa pusakal na Maute Group.

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) ang personal na nagtungo sa Marawi City noong Martes upang ihayag na “Marawi is liberated.” Kasama niya sa pagtungo roon sina Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, AFP

Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año at ang paboritong PNP Chief Director General Roland “Bato” dela Rosa. Sa kabila nito, isang English broadsheet ang may banner story noong Miyerkules “Marawi liberated! But Battle Drags On.”

Batay sa pahayag ni Mano Digong, “nakalaya” na ang Marawi sa mga terorista. Simula ito ng malawakang rekonstruksiyon at rehabilitasyon ng durog at wasak na siyudad ng mga Maranaw. Gayunman, sinabi ng militar na patuloy pa ang bakbakan dahil may natitira pang 30 terorista, bukod pa sa sinisikap ng AFP na mailigtas ang may 20 hostages.

Patuloy na hinahanap at ginagalugad ng mga sundalo ang mga lugar sa Marawi City upang hanapin at ma-neutralize ang Malaysian na si Mahmud Ahmad, ang pumalit umanong “emir” kay Ispilon.

## Marawi, laya na nga ba?

Siya ang pinanunuwalaang financier at recruiter na tumulong sa koalisyon ng pro-ISIS fighters na sumalakay sa siyudad noong Mayo 23. Si Ahmad ay nagsanay sa al-Qaeda camp sa Afghanistan. “Based on our informations, there is still one personality, Dr. Mahmud of Malaysia, and he is still in the main battle area with some Indonesians ang Malaysians,” pahayag ni Gen. Año. Sa pinakahuling ulat, napatay na ng mga sundalo si Ahmad.

Malaking pinsala ang nalasap ng Marawi City at ng may 200,000 residente nito dahil sa pag-okupa ng Maute-ISIS-ASG group. Sa hangaring malipol ang mga terorista, walang lubay ang ginawang pambobomba ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) sa utos ni PRRD. Wasak at durog ang mga gusali, paaralan, bahay at istruktura na pinagsikapang itayo at ipundar ng mga Maranao.

Si Mano Digong ay may dugong-Maranao at dama niya ang hapdi ng kalooban at pagdurusa ng mga kadugo sa pagkawasak ng lungsod, na ipinagmamalaking Islamic City sa buong Mindanao. Di ba sinabi niya noon na huwag siyang pilitin na magdeklara ng martial law sa Mindanao dahil “I will be harsh”, bunsod ng kaguluhan at karahasan sa katmugan?

Habang isinusulat ko ito, nagbabakbakan pa rin ang mga tropa ng gobyerno at ang nalalabing mga terorista. “We’re making sure no hostages and fighters are left,” sabi ni Col. Romeo Brawner, Joint Task Force Ranao deputy commander. Ayon naman kay Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, may 20-30 pang

Sundan sa pahina 11

## Marawi, laya na nga ba?

Mula sa pahina 7

teronista, kabilang ang walong foreign fighters, na nasa Marawi.

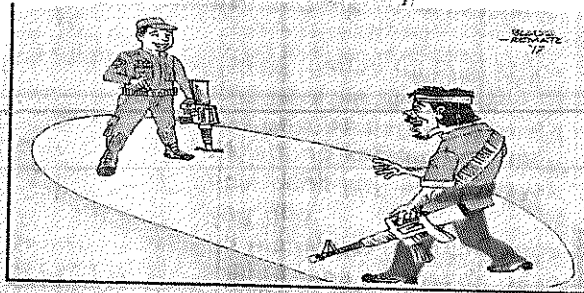
Nagkakainitan ang dalawang dating opisyal ng PNP at AFP na sina Sen. Panfilo Lacson at ex-BoC Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon. Ito ay tungkol sa isyu ng kurapsiyon. Inaakusahan ni Sen. Ping si Faeldon na tumanggap ng P100 milyon “pasalubong” (P107 milyon daw) bilang bagong Customs commissioner. Inaakusahan naman ni Faeldon ng smuggling ang anak ni Ping na si Pampi. Mag-abang na lang tayo ng susunod na kabanata sa “bakbakang ito” ng dalawang opisyal.

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October 2017

Pahina: 4



## EDITORIAL

### DIGONG BUKAS PA RIN SA NPA

MATAPOS ang digmaan sa Marawi City, isusunod namang asikasuhin ni Pangulong Rodrigo 'Digong' Duterte ang rebeldeng New People's Army.

Mismong si Pang. Digong na ang nagbitiw ng salita na kakausapin niya ang NPA at nangangahulugang nagbibigay pa siya ng tsansa para sa kapayapaan at pagkasundo-sundo sa halip na sumalang ang buong bayan sa panibagong 50 taong rebolusyon.

Sana, tingnan nang mabuti ng mga rebelde ang intensyong para sa kapayapaan at pagkasundo-sundo at pagbangon ng bansa sa lugmok nitong kalagayan bilang mahalagang usapin dahil ang buong bayan ang makikinabang dito.

Sana rin, hindi mahaluan ng ibang mga interes ang nasabing mga intensyon gaya ng interes ng mga dayuhan at mga kasabwat nilang mga maiimpluwensyang Pinoy na matagal nang naghahari sa bansa subalit bigong kamtin para sa buong bayan ang kapayapaan, pagkasundo-sundo at pagbangon mula sa pagkakalugmok.

Ang totoo pa nga, ang mga dayuhan at kanilang mga kasabwat ay pinanatili ang sistemang iilan lamang nakikinabang sa yaman ng bansa at kapangyarihan dito.

Maganda kung makilahok ang higit na nakararami sa pagkamit ng nasabing mga intensyon upang maisipan ng mga rebelde at pamahalaan na umupo at mag-usap alang-alang sa kapakanan ng buong bayan at hindi sa kanya-kanyang interes.

Dapat ding tumulong ang bayan sa pagwasak sa mga interes ng iba na kaiba sa interes ng buong bayan.

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22 October 2017

Pahina. 5

## OFFICER LAYS DOWN FIREARM FOR THE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

I HAVE heard stories about heroic and gallant deeds of men and women all throughout the duration of the Marawi siege but this could be the most noteworthy of all.

To me, the ultimate act of gallantry and heroism was displayed on Thursday by a military officer who, by his willingness to do the ultimate sacrifice of dying for country and people, deserves maybe even more than the Medal of Valor, if ever there is one.

His name is Captain Jeffrey Buada, commanding officer of the 15th Scout Ranger Company, an independent company of the First Scout Ranger Regiment.

He is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 2007.

In May 2017, just a few

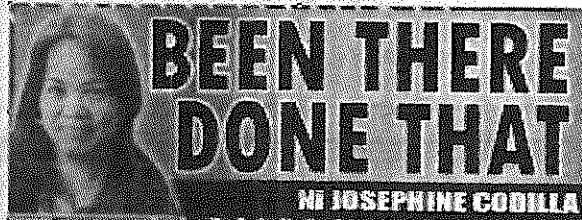
days after the start of the siege, Jeff was wounded in the knee.

"Ok na po ako, Ma'am. I just hope maka-recover ako agad para makabalik and join my troops ulit sa battlefield," he said when I asked how he was.

Jeff said he and his troops were almost pinned down to a narrow wall during a gunfight and was lucky to enter a small doorway to avoid the hail of bullets from IS/Maute fighters, except for one bullet which pierced his knee.

In no time at all, Jeff reported back to Marawi.

From then on, he accomplished countless deeds, so many that he doesn't even have time to write them down—assaulting, clearing, rescuing hostages—every



imaginable deed of true-blooded warriors.

But his last act was the one people cannot imagine somebody is capable of doing, except in the movies.

Last Thursday, October 19, Jeff literally put his life on the line and deliberately sacrificed his personal well-being to rescue hostages held by some hardcore terrorists.

He removed his helmet, put down his firearm and face-to-face urged the enemies to set free their women and children hostages and allow the soldiers to bring the wounded to the hospital.

He requested all the units

behind him to cease fire, to put off the engines of tanks in order not to agitate the enemies, many of whom were in a state of war shock.

From 11:00 in the morning until almost 4:00 in the afternoon, with the help of soldiers from other units, women and children were moved to safety. After 4:00 p.m., fighting resumed.

October 19 will go down in history as the day that a living hero made the country very proud for his conspicuous act of courage and gallantry beyond the call of duty.

Mabuhay ka, Cpt. Jeff Buada!

22 October 2017

# INQUIRER

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## EDITORIAL

### To go home to Marawi

**W**ith Marawi pronounced liberated last Oct. 17 by the Commander in Chief, all thoughts turn to the rebuilding of the city, as well as to the *bakwit* who have lost well nigh everything yet are eager to start life afresh.

The military has since clarified that the conflict, running now to five months, was not yet over, and that sporadic fighting was continuing. "We are going to get them very soon. We're making sure no hostages and fighters are left," said Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Lanao. Citing Mr. Duterte's largely symbolic declaration, Brawner added: "We cannot really say that [the area] is 100-percent cleared. Even when World War II ended and liberation was declared, fighting continued. That is also what's happening here."

The number of those rendered homeless by the fighting is staggering. According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, 78,466 families or 359,680 people were forced to leave their homes and are staying in 68 government evacuation centers in the Lanao provinces. Imagine their misery.

Mr. Duterte's declaration of liberation has raised hope among the *bakwit* that they could soon go home again (a wistful, close to impossible, thought even in happier circumstances). Those whose families are mercifully intact want only to see their homes to complete their happiness—but some have been heartbroken by the reality. Like utility worker Procema Perez, who hoped that their home in Barangay Datu Saber had been spared: "Unlike the others, we did not lose any family member because of the war. But we lost our home... We have nothing to return to because our house was hit by bombs."

Others continue to be bereaved, with 47 civilians reported killed.

Norma Saumay, 60, is still in search of her son. "I'm not happy Marawi was liberated. I'm [extremely sad] because my son is missing, and our house was destroyed by the military airstrikes."

Observers cannot but be moved by the devastation of the Islamic City, and the amount of work and resources necessary to bring it back to life. Not only money but also political will and steely resolve are required; inner strength, too, on the part of the

*bakwit*, whose tears constantly flow.

As much as P56 billion is needed to rebuild the once proud city, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. The President has signed Administrative Order No. 3, which formed Task Force Bangon Marawi and committed P20 billion to this cause. Other countries have pledged to help in the effort.

And this effort is nothing less than gargantuan, to belabor the obvious. The fact is that many parts of Marawi have been leveled, reduced to ruins by bullets and bombs. Bullet holes mark surviving structures. Homes that cradled whole clans have been razed to nothingness.

Renowned architect and urban planner Felino Palafox Jr., who has volunteered to help in the rebuilding effort, recommended that the ruins of Marawi be converted into a memorial, to remind the public how a city could fall to terrorism. "I've been in postdisaster rehabilitation [programs]—big earthquakes, tsunamis and big floods—[and] Marawi is the worst [I have seen]," Palafox said. He said "Ground Zero should be preserved as a lesson for future generations."

Then there is the deeper reconstruction needed. Wrote Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto in a commentary: "There is unanimity in the idea that the liberation of Marawi will not put out the flame of faith-based extremism in Mindanao. In fact, there is a well-grounded fear that the war has engendered another breed of radicals who will be more ferocious and unforgiving after seeing and feeling the agony and pillage of their place. This is the challenge that the government faces now."

But life goes on, such as it has become. At an evacuation center Tarhata Mustari had delivered a child whom she named "Martial Law," but the baby eventually contracted pneumonia and died. Yet Mustari looks forward to continuing her interrupted life back in Marawi. "Thank you, Mr. President, for your promise to help us rebuild our home," she said. "Thank you for your help while we are still in the evacuation center. I also thank our military for liberating Marawi from the Islamic State. If our local officials would allow us, then we will choose to go back to Marawi. There's no place like home."

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## ONLINE NEWS

22 OCTOBER 2017

### Palace: Gov't troops remain on guard in Marawi

October 21, 2017, 7:01 pm

**MANILA** -- Following President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's declaration of the liberation of Marawi, Malacañang on Saturday assured the Filipino public that the government would continue to be on guard against any remaining terrorist in the area.

In a statement aired over Radio Pilipinas, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella stressed that the start of the military pullout in Marawi does not signal the end of fighting between government troops and stragglers of the Maute terrorist group.

"While enemy force has greatly diminished, we will continue to be alert and assure the residents of the city that we will not compromise its security with the presence of some units of the Armed Forces," Abella said.

The Palace official guaranteed that the government would not drop its guard for possible threats coming from the remaining network of the ISIS-inspired terror group, which may still be operating while the rehabilitation of Marawi is ongoing. Meanwhile, the Palace also announced that authorities have put closure on the death of Michael Siaron, a suspected drug personality whose photo created a buzz after it was compared to the Pieta image.

Abella said ballistics examination from a recovered firearm revealed that Siaron was killed by a member of a syndicate also involved in the illegal drug trade. According to Abella, this report verifies the government's claim from the start that many drug-related killings in the country were actually perpetrated by those involved in drug operations, as drug traffickers and pushers try to eliminate each other.

"The relentless attribution of such killings to police operations was both premature and unfair to law-abiding enforcement officers who risk life and limb to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs in our society," the official noted.

"Government assures the public and the families of victims of deaths under investigation that authorities will pursue cases until the truly guilty are brought before the bar of justice," he added. **(PND)**

# AFP welcomes surrender of terrorists' relatives

October 21, 2017, 1:32 pm

**MANILA** -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Friday welcomed the move of some relatives of terrorists Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute to lay down their arms and surrender to the government.

"We are happy to note that there is some sense entering into the minds of all these relatives who bear arms and who have been part of the network. And as the days go by, let this be (the) good message to all these armed individuals and armed elements," AFP spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., said during the regular Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang.

*"Maging magandang mensahe po sana itong mga nangyayari sa Marawi na talagang determinado ang Armed Forces at ang ating pamahalaan na i-address lahat ng mga armadong grupo upang talagang manatiling safe ang ating mga kanayunan at ang ating mga siyudad,"* he added.

The AFP spokesperson also asked the public's cooperation to work hand-in-hand with the government in addressing the issue of loose firearms.

*"Hangga't hindi po naibabalik at naisu-surrender lahat ng mga loose firearms, 'yung mga armas na hindi dapat nasa kamay ng mga tao na wala namang lisensya at hindi naman dapat naghahawak ng armas, dapat makuha po natin lahat 'yan nang sa ganun, masabi naling ganap na maayos ang ating mga komunidad,"* he said.

The AFP official meanwhile confirmed the death of Malaysian terrorist Dr. Mahmud Ahmad, who helped finance the Marawi siege, and said that the AFP is in the process of recovering the terrorist's body.

He said Mahmud's death was verified through a first-person account of a hostage who knew Mahmud and saw the events unfolding.

"He died during the assault of our troops the other day -- or the other night, where 12 other rebels died. And we are (in) the process of recovering the body of Dr. Mahmud," Padilla said.

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.

"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.

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

Following President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's declaration of the liberation of Marawi, Padilla said the AFP would now be shifting its forces to other areas for their required training and scheduled battalion activities.

"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.

He clarified, however, that there are still units deployed in the war-torn city to continuously ensure the security of the people during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

"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," Padilla said.

Padilla then sought the patience and understanding of the Marawi residents who are planning to return to their homes.

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

The AFP official stressed the need to clear all areas of all possible hazards like improvised explosive devices (IEDs), booby traps, and other unexploded ordnances, before allowing residents to return.

*"Kinakailangan hanapin po natin lahat ng naiwang mga bomba na hindi pumutok, mga patibong na iniwan na hindi po namin nakita, at mga bagay na maaaring makasakit sa inyo,"* Padilla stressed.

*"Kaya hinihingi po namin ang pasensya at pag-unawa ng lahat. 'Pag oras na po na kami'y ganap na sigurado na hindi na po talaga ito magiging balakid, kami po'y magbibigay ng senyales at makikipag-ugnayan sa local government upang pahintulutan na po ito,"* he added.

For his part, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Assistant Secretary Kristoffer Purisima said a massive cleanup drive dubbed as "Brigada Marawi" is continuously being conducted in affected areas.

The initiative, which was launched on Oct. 4, is led by the local government of Marawi, with the assistance of the AFP.

"As of yesterday, Oct. 19, 22 barangays benefitted from the cleanup drive and more sectors and stakeholders are joining the Marawi City local government unit, where they aim to restore the cleanliness and sanitation in the city," Purisima cited.

Purisima also gave updates on the Post-Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA) of affected areas. He said the inter-agency PCNA teams already assessed 10 barangays to date, with 16 more barangays yet to be visited.

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

Martial law still in effect in Mindanao

Meanwhile, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella reiterated the President's statement that martial law in Mindanao would not be lifted until the last terrorist had been taken out.

The Cabinet official said the death of the ringleaders of the Marawi rebellion, including Omar Maute, Isnilon Hapilon, and Mahmud Ahmad, do not automatically result in the lifting of martial law.

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

On the other hand, Abella explained that President Duterte would still confer with the members of his Cabinet Security, the Justice and Peace Cluster in particular, to come up with a decision on the matter.

He said the President would discuss the necessary action to be taken with the Secretary of National Defense, who is the designated martial law administrator, and the AFP Chief of Staff, who is the designated martial law implementor.

No sacred government exec

Following President Duterte's announcement that he sacked an undersecretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) due to allegations of corruption, Abella, in the same press briefing, said this development shows no government official is sacred under Duterte's administration.

"The President's action highlights that no government official is sacred under this administration," Abella said.

"Let this be a reminder to all public officers that we are all here, not for ourselves but for the greater good," he added. *(PND)*

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

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