

*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

23 October 2017

**Monday**

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

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# INQUIRER

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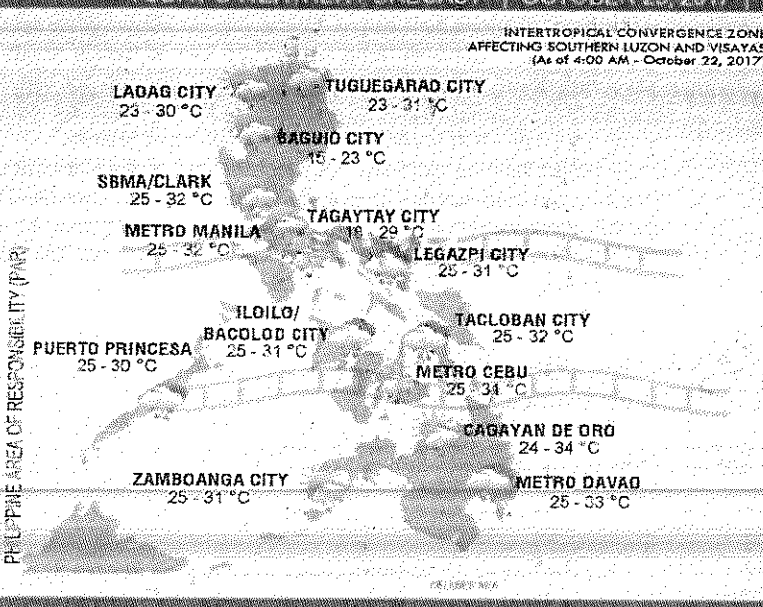
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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 23, 2017 | MONDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

**SUNRISE** 5:49 AM

**SUNSET** 5:32 PM

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**MOONRISE** 8:29 AM

**MOONSET** 8:14 PM

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**NEW MOON** OCT 23 3:12 AM

**FIRST QUARTER** OCT 28 6:32 AM

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**LOW TIDE** 6:47 AM


**HIGH TIDE** 1:40 PM

0.05 Meter      1.03 Meter


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

Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA		TAGAYTAY		TACLOBAN	
25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	19 - 29 °C	19 - 29 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO		LEGAZPI		CAGAYAN DE ORO	
23 - 30 °C	22 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	26 - 31 °C	24 - 34 °C	23 - 33 °C
LADAG		PUERTO PRINCESA		METRO DAVAO	
23 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C	25 - 34 °C	24 - 33 °C
BAGUID		ILOILO/ BACOLOD		ZAMBOANGA	
15 - 23 °C	15 - 22 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
SBMA/ CLARK		METRO CEBU			
24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C		



MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM



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

23 October 2017

# INQUIRER

Page: A1

## LAST 30 TERRORISTS HOLED UP IN BUILDING

STORY BY DIVINA SUSON AND GEOFFREY MAITEM

Government troops try to put an end to fighting in Marawi on Sunday, battling remnants of the pro-IS alliance making a last stand—a handful of terrorists, their families and five foreign fighters. **A21**

### FROM A1

By Divina Suson  
and Jeffrey Maitem  
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—The battle for Marawi was down to the last building on Sunday, with government troops fiercely fighting the remnants of a pro-Islamic State (IS) alliance who were determined to fight to the death, the military said.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the task force battling the last of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists who seized large parts of Marawi five months ago, said the military was trying to bring the fighting to an end by either capturing or killing the last 30 terrorists holed up in a two-story building next to the city's vast Lake Lanao.

"There's just one building and they're inside," Brawner told a news conference.

"They are in the basement. It's a commercial building," he said.

"We believe these are the ones who decided to fight it out, because they believe that if they die there they will go to heaven," he added.

#### Foreign fighters

Brawner estimated that there were 30 people in the building, including family members of the terrorists and five foreign fighters.

"Some of them are foreigners, members of the Maute clan and wives of the fighters," Brawner said.

Among the foreigners believed to be with the remaining terrorists were Malaysian militant Amin Baco and an Indonesian known only as Qayyim.

Both have plotted attacks and provided combat training to local terrorists for years but have eluded capture in the south.

Brawner said soldiers were using loudspeakers to urge the gunmen to surrender, although the military believed the terrorists were holding no more hostages.

"We believe those who are

inside that building [include women] who have chosen to stay with their husbands," he said.

"We're trying to convince [the fighters] to release at least the women," he added.

Brawner said the troops were also trying to spare the child warriors.

He gave assurance that those who would surrender would be "treated humanely."

"We gave them all the chances to surrender. We gave them all the chances to come out and, in fact, some of them did," he said.

He cited the case of a Maute wife who recently came out of the battle zone with some hostages freed by the terrorists.

#### IS Southeast Asian enclave

The Maute-Abu Sayyaf alliance and its foreign allies rampaged across Marawi and seized the city center on May 23 to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

The government responded with a police-military campaign that has cost the lives of more than 1,000 people, including 897

terrorists, 165 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians.

The siege of Marawi has stunned the Philippines and stoked wider concerns that IS loyalists have learned how to thrive in impoverished Muslim areas of Mindanao and use the island's jungles and mountains as staging posts to launch attacks.

Those fears are compounded by the Marawi terrorists' ability to recruit young fighters, stockpile huge amounts of arms and endure five months of ground offensive by government troops and airstrikes that have devastated the city.

The military made a significant gain with last week's killing of the two top leaders of the terrorist alliance—Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, the IS "emir," or leader, in Southeast Asia, and Omar Maute, a member of the Maute militant clan of Lanao del Sur province.

Another leader and possible bankroller of the terror operations, Malaysian militant Mahmud Ahmad, was likely

killed also, the military said, although his body had not been found.

Brawner said the authorities believed there was now a leadership vacuum in the alliance and the stragglers were running low on ammunition.

#### US support

The US Embassy in Manila on Sunday said an embassy official "hand carried" the DNA sample taken from the body of Hapilon to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters in Quantico, Virginia, "for identity verification" on the request of the Philippine military.

The DNA tests confirmed the death of Hapilon, the embassy said in a statement.

"This is yet another example of how the US is supporting our friend, partner and ally in the fight against terror," the embassy said.

Washington has offered a \$5-million bounty for Hapilon, who had been blamed for kidnappings for ransom of American nationals and other terror-

ist attacks.

The United States and Australia provided surveillance support to the government's campaign to retake Marawi from the terrorists.

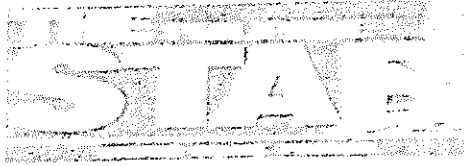
Although fighting was still going on, President Duterte on Tuesday declared Marawi "liberated from terrorists' influence" and said "that marks the beginning of rehabilitation."

The government estimates the rebuilding of Marawi could cost at least P50 billion.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) aims to finish by next month site development work for the first batch of temporary housing for Marawi residents displaced by the fighting.

"The area being developed by the DPWH in Barangay Sagonsongan, Marawi City, can accommodate 1,100 families. We are doing everything we can to finish it by November," Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said on Sunday. —WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS, TINA G. SANTOS, AP AND REUTERS INQ

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# Fight is over - AFP

## *Rody: Be ready for terrorist attacks*

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – The fight is over in Marawi City, military officials declared yesterday after 153 days of fighting with the Islamic State-inspired Maute group of militants.

Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., the senior military commander overseeing the offensive in Marawi, said the troops were poised to finish off the remaining militants confined on one floor of a building in the war-torn city.

"Yes, *tapos na ito* (this is finished). We are clearing the last floors," Galvez said in a brief text message to reporters.

Army Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Task Force Ranao, said troops were clearing the building where some 30 Maute fighters were

still holed up.

He said troops were determined to end the crisis before midnight yesterday.

Brawner said the remaining gunmen, who include several Indonesian and Malaysian fighters, have the option of surrendering, or they can either be captured or killed.

"Our government forces will try to do everything to finish the firefight today," Brawner told a news conference in Marawi yesterday.

"It's either they all get killed, because they're determined to die

Turn to Page 6

## Fight From Page 1

inside, or we capture them or they surrender," he said.

Brawner said some women and relatives of the gunmen

have chosen to fight alongside their menfolk.

Troops had cornered the militants in one building and

all their hostages gone as the five-month siege neared its end.

"We believe there are no more hostages... the latest number of hostages we rescued is 20. We believe that those inside that building have chosen to stay with their husbands," Brawner said.

He said the wives of the gunmen who chose to surrender will be treated as non-combatants and will undergo psychological debriefing.

### Be prepared

President Duterte for his part, yesterday said the fight against the Maute group is not yet over, urging the public to brace for more terror attacks.

"In the coming days, with the siege that happened in

Marawi, I'm not trying to scare you but let's just be prepared for any eventuality," Duterte said during the 38th MassKara Festival in Bacolod City.

"Terrorism is everywhere. And no nation has escaped from the clutches of the evil of ISIS. It's an ideology dedicated to just kill human beings and destroy places," Duterte said, referring to the IS.

Even with the defeat of the Maute group, Duterte said martial law will remain in Mindanao "until the last terrorist is taken out."

Duterte thanked the security forces who fought the terrorists in Marawi, saying they are lucky to be given the opportunity to die for the country.

"Not every Filipino is given



a chance to die for his country. That's my message to the soldiers," he said.

Army Visit  
"Treat your soldiers well. They have sacrificed for this country."

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBL

A gradual withdrawal of military forces was underway with the easing of the fighting in Marawi, which has left at least 1,131 people dead, including 919 militants and 165 soldiers and policemen.

Brawner said the troops continued to ask the gunmen, who are leaderless and running low on ammunition, to surrender by using loudspeakers.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said some of the remaining militants were "suicidal" and refused to give up.

Hundreds of the Maute group, many waving IS black flags, launched the siege on May 23 in Marawi, seizing the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities. They ransacked banks and shops, including gun stores, looted houses and smashed statues in a Roman Catholic cathedral, according to the military.

To address the terrorist threats, Duterte placed the entire island of Mindanao under martial law and ordered the arrest of politicians and drug personalities believed to have funded the siege.

At least 1,780 of the hostages seized by the militants, including a Roman Catholic priest, were rescued, and a final group of 20 captives were freed overnight, Brawner said.

That left the gunmen with none of the hostages they had used as human shields to slow the military advance for months.

Among the foreign militants believed to be with the remaining gunmen in Marawi were Malaysian Amin Baco and an Indonesian known only as Qayyim. Both have plotted attacks and provided combat training to local extremists for years but have eluded capture in Mindanao.

Last Monday, troops killed the final two surviving leaders of the siege: Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute.

Following their deaths, President Duterte traveled

near the frontlines and declared Marawi had been essentially liberated from terrorist influence, although skirmishes with a few dozen gunmen continued.

DNA tests done in the United States requested by the AFP have confirmed the death of Hapilon, according to the US embassy in Manila.

"This is yet another example of how the US is supporting our friend, partner, and ally in the fight against terror," embassy spokesperson Molly Koscina said.

Washington has offered a bounty of up to \$5 million for Hapilon, who had been blamed for kidnappings for ransom of American nationals and other terrorist attacks.

AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla clarified the reward would only be given to civilians who provided the vital information.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, for his part, declared the beginning of the phase for rehabilitation.

"With the rescue of all the hostages who were claimed by witnesses and other hostages to be among the last who were held captive by the Maute terrorists, it is now time to win the hearts and minds of the people there in Marawi," Esperon said.

Esperon stressed the rehabilitation of Marawi City should be fast-tracked as local officials have started to identify the city residents.

Those who are not residents will not be eligible for the rehabilitation efforts and whatever assistance extended to displaced individuals, he said.

At least nine barangays in Marawi City have been opened and allowed the return of residents.

The National Housing Authority will initially build about 1,500 temporary shelters, or pre-fabricated houses that will take about only two days to construct.

A multi-agency task force has also been formed to attend to the different needs of the residents so all aspects of the rehabilitation of Marawi City are properly addressed.

- With Alexis Romero, Edith Regalado, Michael Punongbayan, Pia Lee-Brago, AP

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INQUIRER

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# Rescued hostages bare abuses by IS

By Divina Suson  
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—The suffering of civilians kept hostage for nearly five months by Islamic State (IS) terrorists here had been just stories being passed around among soldiers fighting IS until government troopers came face-to-face with 11 of the hostages and their harrowing ordeal.

When the 11 hostages were rescued on Oct. 16, the soldiers who laid their lives on the line to keep the civilians safe also got a closeup view of how residents of the predominantly Muslim city were made to endure all types of abuses in the hands of IS.

## Leaders killed

Moments after the two top leaders of IS in the city—Isnilon

Hapilon and Omar Maute—were killed, 11 civilians emerged from where they had been kept and saved by soldiers who heard the people's cries inside the armored personnel carrier (APC) that took the civilians in.

Sgt. Christopher Lorenzo, of the 1st Cavalry Squadron of the Philippine Army's Mechanized Infantry Division, was the driver of the APC that was used to transport the 11 hostages, five of them children, including a 2-month-old baby.

## Left behind

The first to be rescued, according to Lorenzo, was a middle-aged woman and her baby, two months old. Although they were already inside the APC being driven by Lorenzo, the woman kept crying, saying a daughter, 3 years old, had been left behind in their rush to run

toward soldiers some 500 meters from the building where they were held hostage by the terrorists.

The 3-year-old girl, Lorenzo said, was left behind because she had a gunshot wound on a foot and could barely walk. "She wore no slipper and there were shards on the way," the APC driver said.

## Snipers

The soldiers were told that snipers were still positioned inside the building from where the civilians fled.

"They still have snipers, sir," one woman, among the 11 rescued hostages, told soldiers.

But Lorenzo said soldiers involved in the rescue ignored the warning. Upon seeing the 3-year-old girl running to the direction of government troopers, soldiers rushed toward the

girl and were able to avoid sniper fire.

Lorenzo said the child tried to run fast to the soldiers' direction but shards of glass obviously aggravated her foot injury.

One of the soldiers seized the chance to grab the girl, hug her and keep her away from terrorist fire.

Inside the APC, the girl would not stop crying as she asked for her mother, Lorenzo said.

"We all cried, the soldiers cried," he said. "I imagined she was my child," the APC driver said.

Inside the APC, the civilians immediately asked for water.

"They did not stop crying," Lorenzo recalled, adding that the people looked starved.

"I wanted to give them biscuits but that time, we ran out

of supply," he said.

Lorenzo said one boy, who was around 5 years old, kept on shouting "Papa, Papa," while inside the APC.

Lorenzo said it was so devastating looking at the boy who would not stop looking for his father.

According to the other hostages, the terrorists had forced the boy's father to carry a firearm and fight government forces.

"The father could be dead now," he said. "We didn't know him," Lorenzo added. INQ



WATCH VIDEO: Hostage rescue  
[www.inq.news/RescuedHostages](http://www.inq.news/RescuedHostages)

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INQUIRER

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## FEMALE CAPTAIN LEADS RECOVERY OF MILITARY VEHICLES DISABLED IN BATTLE



**SUPPORT UNIT** Capt. Jovy Buclat says she finds the work of her 13 men significant in the mission to rid Marawi City of Islamic State-inspired terrorists. —DIVINA SUSON

**By Divina Suson**  
@inquirermindanao

**MARAWI CITY**—Capt. Jovy Buclat and the 13 men under her command never fired a shot during the battle for Marawi.

Their job was not to shoot it out with the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists loyal to the Islamic State (IS) jihadi group but to “rescue” Army armor and other vehicles that got disabled during the fighting.

Buclat, 36, is the commander of the Forward Support Company of the Armor Maintenance Battalion of the Mechanized Infantry Division, a job that she said she found “very fulfilling.”

“I feel that our lives have become significant, especially in this mission to liberate Marawi City,” she said.

### Working amid fighting

She and her group may not have exchanged fire with the enemy but they found themselves in situations where they were vulnerable to stray bullets or sniper fire.

Buclat said there were times when they had to dash to fix armored personnel carriers (APCs) that broke down in the middle of an assault.

“We had to [get to the APC and] fix it [amid fighting between our troops and the enemy,” she said.

Like any other member of the Mechanized Infantry Division, Buclat trained in armor maintenance.

She rose through the ranks to become the executive officer of the 33rd Mechanized Company of the 3rd Mechanized Battalion based in Tarlac.

### Marawi deployment

Last year, she was named commander of the Forward Support Company and assigned to Maguindanao in May when she received an order for deployment to Marawi.

Brig. Gen. Fel Budiongan, assistant commander of the Mechanized Infantry Division, said it was not common for fe-

male officers to be on the front.

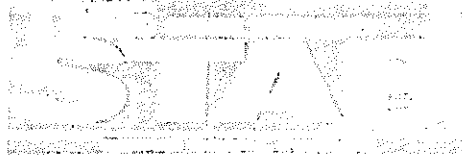
But on the front in Marawi, he said, Buclat provided leadership to the mechanics in maintaining the Army’s armor in fighting condition throughout the crisis.

“The boys [on] the battlefield are happy to have her in their midst,” Budiongan said.

“I have also observed that the boys [always try to] look good [whenever] Jovy is around,” he added, joking.

Aside from an end to the war here, there’s one other thing Buclat is looking forward to: a trip to Hong Kong, a reward promised by President Duterte to all female soldiers serving in Marawi. INQ

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## 2 killed in Negros shooting

BACOLOD CITY - Two persons were killed while two others were wounded when at least 10 men strafed a house in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental on Saturday.

Angel Bacani and his partner Sofia Dagat were having dinner with two visitors from Mindanao when the attack occurred in Sitio Malaboyokon, Barangay Buenavista, according to a report from the Army's 79th Infantry Battalion.

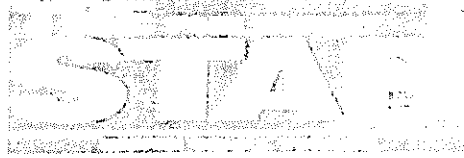
Bacani and one of their visitors, whose name was not immediately available, died yesterday from gunshot wounds, the report said.

Dagat and the other visitor were being treated at the Guihulngan City District Hospital.

Police have yet to determine the motive for the attack.

-Gilbert Bayoran

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## Military denies farmer's arrest

By ARTEMIO DURLAO

BAGUIO CITY – The military in Ilocos Sur has denied allegations that soldiers arrested a farmer suspected of helping a group of New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas who strafed several soldiers in Quirino town.

"We do not have police power to arrest civilians," Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio Osias, chief of the Army's 81st Infantry Battalion said yesterday.

Osias was referring to claims by members of the Ilocos Human Rights Advocates (IHRA) that the military arrested Mario Wandas on Saturday morning.

A group of guerrillas reportedly opened fire at Army soldiers, who were helping fix a school in Barangay Patiacan on Oct. 15.

Osias admitted the Army interrogated Wandas on his alleged involvement in the incident.

Wandas denied participating in the incident that left a soldier dead and another wounded.

The IHRA claimed the military harassed Wandas for several days before he was allegedly arrested.

Osias said the Quirino town police invited Wandas for questioning on Saturday, with the permission of village elders, villagers and the farmer's family.

Wandas' family, the IHRA said, is worried about his safety. He remains missing.

Meanwhile, an NPA unit operating in Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur yesterday admitted to torching P9 million worth of heavy equipment owned by a quarry firm in Barangay Bonbon, Butuan City.

The attack was reportedly in retaliation for the firm's refusal to pay revolutionary taxes, according to Omar Ibarra, spokesperson for the rebel group.

The NPA reportedly sent an emissary to the quarry firm to discuss the payment of taxes.

"Quarry firm operator Gil Cembrano had the emissary arrested," Ibarra said.

– With Ben Serrano

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## 30 more rebels surrender

Following a spike of surrenders last month, 30 more members of the communist terrorist New People's Army (NPA) yielded to government forces over the past three weeks, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Sunday disclosed.

AFP Public Affairs Chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo said since the start of October, the AFP has been facilitating the surrender of more NPA members, some of whom voluntarily handed over their firearms to our troops.

"This affirms the continuous success of our focused military operations complemented by intelligence and civil-military efforts," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the latest surrenders took place on October 16 in Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat where five NPA members voluntarily turned themselves in to the 57th Infantry Battalion, of the Philippine Army. They were identified as

Indo Sagpa Aquino who uses the alias 'Six', Amelio Bandala Limboy or 'Primo', Wilson Malubay Palon or 'Jack', Losion Samson Masot or 'Mistah', and Wilden Aquino Saliding or 'Kugita.

The former NPA Guerilla Front 73 fighters also surrendered three high-powered firearms.

The first to surrender this month was a high-ranking NPA member who gave up to the 39th Infantry Battalion last October 1 in Arakan, North Cotabato. Alex Gawelan who uses the alias 'Banate' also yielded to authorities an M16 rifle. He was a member of the NPA's Guerilla Front 53.

Other surrenders were facilitated in Abra, Surigao del Sur, Zamboanga Del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao Del Norte, Compostela Valley, Occidental Mindoro, and Cagayan. A total of 14 high-powered firearms were collected from the rebels including M16, M14, AK47, and Garand rifles. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

# Sundalong nabulag bumalik sa Marawi upang ituloy ang laban

Published October 22, 2017 3:02pm

Pansamantalang nabulag si Private First Class Allan Benbinuto ng 15th Scout Ranger Company, Scout Ranger Battalion at nang makakitang muli ay bumalik sa bakbakan sa Marawi City.

Tinamaan ng shrapnel ng improvised explosive device si PFC Benbinuto. Siya ay nabulag at muling nakakita matapos magamot.



Makalipas lamang ang ilang linggo, muli siyang bumalik sa battle ground upang ipagpatuloy ang kanyang misyon.

Noon ay nasugatan din sa bakbakan sa Basilan si Allan nang matamaan siya ng bala sa kanyang hita. At pangalawa, nasugatan din siya sa bakbakan sa Sulu matapos tamaan ang kanyang kamay.

Paulit-ulit man siyang masugatan ay paulit-ulit syang lalaban para sa bayan, aniya.

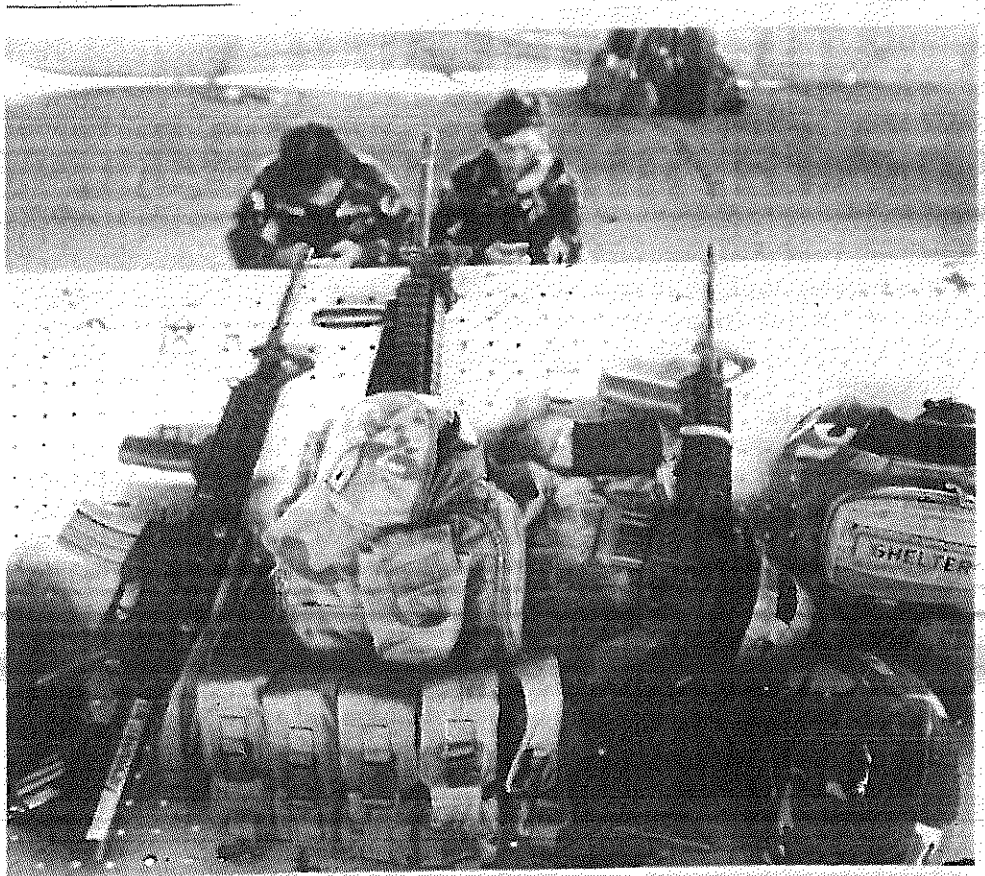
Si PFC Benbinuto ay nagmula sa bayan ng Tagkawayan, Quezon sa Quezon province. —  
Peewee Bacuño/LBG, GMA News



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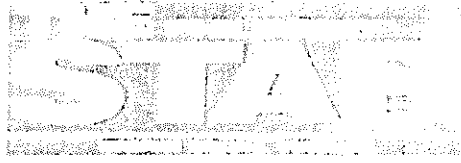
MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATIONAL LEADING METROPAPE

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**WEAPONS DOWN** - After almost five months of fighting, members of the elite 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion gather in an undisclosed location outside the main battle area to check on their families using their cellphones in Marawi City. (Keith Bacongco)

23 October 2017



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## 9,000 soldiers, cops secure Asean venue in Clark

By **DING CERVANTES**

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga – At least 9,000 soldiers, police officers and other government personnel have been deployed to secure the venue for this week's ASEAN De-

fense Ministers Meeting.

Police officers have been deployed over and under bridges along the North Luzon Expressway, according to Chief Superintendent Amador Corpuz, head of the Task Group Clark ASEAN 2017.

Security has been tightened around the Clark International Airport, where foreign defense ministers are expected to land for the two-day meeting.

"Except for the intensified security measures, it's business as usual in Clark," Corpuz

said.

The task force is composed of personnel from the military and police as well as from the departments of the interior and local government, health and social welfare and development.

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The Manila Times

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## Military tightens security for Asean meeting

THE military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) has tightened security for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) in Clark, Pampanga, which opens today, Monday.

Nolcom spokesman Lt. Col. Isagani Nato said on Sunday 200 troopers from the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija and the 5th Infantry Division

► Asean A2

### ASEAN FROM A1

## Military tightens security for Asean

in Cagayan Valley province were deployed to guard delegates and keep the peace during the two-day event.

These soldiers will be assigned to cover the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan to ensure that the security measures prepared for the Asean meeting will be implemented without hitches, Nato said.

"Everything is planned out and rehearsed to ensure the safety and security of the VIPs and participants," he added.

Aside from the Army, the Naval Forces of Northern Luzon will also secure Clark while Philippine Air Force personnel will provide security to arriving and departing Asean leaders.

Defense chiefs from the Asean region and some of its allied countries such as Russia, Australia and the United States are expected to attend the meeting.

"We have to tighten the security because this is not just an ordinary event," Nato told reporters.

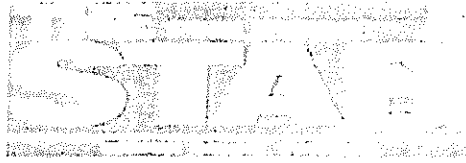
On Monday, the 11th ADMM will be held and on Tuesday, the 4th ADMM-Plus will be attended by the visiting leaders.

Expected at the meetings are Asean Secretary General Le Luong Minh; Brunei Darussalam Minister of Energy and Industry Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar; Cambodian Minister of National Defense Samdech Pichay Sena Tea Banh; Indonesian Minister of Defense Ryamizard Ryacudu; Malaysian Defense Minister Hishamuddin bin Tun Hussein; Myanmar Minister of Defense Sein Win; Lao PDR Minister of National Defense Chansamone Chanyalath; Singaporean Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen; Thailand

Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan; Vietnamese Minister of National Defense Ngo Xuan Lich, among others. Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, joined by

Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año, will welcome the delegates.  
**DEMPSEY REYES**

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## House backs pay hike for soldiers, police

By **DELON PORCALLA**

The chair of the House committee on appropriations supports Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno's promise to double the pay of soldiers and policemen, pursuant to the campaign promise of President Duterte.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV has also pushed for the immediate passage of Senate Bill 1463 that seeks to grant educational assistance and benefits to the dependents of the uniformed personnel and law enforcers killed or permanently incapacitated in the line of duty.

"Our men and women in uniform proved in the battle of Marawi that they deserve this salary hike. They managed to contain the threat posed by Maute terrorists within the city, neutralize its key leaders, and retake the city," said House appropriations committee chair and Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles.

Nograles said the salary hike is slated for implementation starting January 2018.

Earlier, Diokno said Malacañang endorsed to both the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft resolution that would make official the 100 percent salary increase for police and military personnel.

Nograles said this is the proper procedure since Congress, particularly the House, possesses the power to allocate funds for government expenditure.

He has guaranteed the approval of the draft resolution once Congress resumes session on Nov. 13. Lawmakers are currently on a month-long Halloween break.

Nograles also gave assurance on the availability of funds during plenary debates on the proposed P3.767-trillion budget for 2018.

He said P24.9 billion from the P84.4-billion Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund for 2018 would be tapped for this purpose.

- With Paolo Romero

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# INQUIRER

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## 100% SALARY HIKE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLICEMEN PUSHED

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkoDizonINQ

House appropriations committee chair and Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles said that he would push for a 100 percent salary increase for soldiers and policemen after the five-month battle in Marawi.

"Our men and women in uniform proved in the Battle of Marawi that they deserve this salary hike," Nograles said in a statement on Sunday.

"They managed to contain the threat posed by Maute terrorists within the city, neutralize its key leaders and retake the city," Nograles said.

The House leader said that the retaking of the city guaranteed the approval of the draft resolution once Congress resumed sessions on Nov. 13 after a month-long break.

"Malacanang has endorsed to both Houses of Congress a draft resolution that would make official the 100 percent salary increase for police and military personnel," the statement added.

Nograles said that the funds for the pay hike could be sourced from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF) which was already in the proposed P3.767-trillion budget for 2018.

"Specifically, P24.9 billion from the P84.4 billion MPBF for 2018 will be tapped for this purpose," he said.

"The amount is separate from the P61.4 billion that has been allocated for the third tranche of pay hikes for government workers under the Salary Standardization Law."

But opposition lawmaker, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano disputed Nograles' claim and claimed President Duterte and his congressional allies only "want to make it appear that they doubled the salary" of soldiers and policemen.

In reality, Alejano said, Nograles was talking about a "salary increase" that was only added to the third tranche of salary increases ordered by former President Benigno Aquino III.

Alejano said that Executive Order No. 201, signed by Aquino in February 2016, provided a modified salary increase schedule for government personnel and granting additional benefits for both civilian, and military and uniformed personnel.

"An average of 58.7% will be the increase. To be precise: 28.85% is from MPBF [the administration's own initiative] and 71.15% from the [General Appropriations Act covering the third tranche of EO 201]," Alejano said.

"Funding EO 201 is still a credit to them because they really have no option [but to provide funding to it]," he added.  
INQ

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# INQUIRER

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## AFP CHIEF: TERRORISTS' REMNANTS 'TAKEN DOWN BY END OF 2017'

FORT DEL PILAR—Military guns will next take aim at other extremist groups in Mindanao, like the Abu Sayyaf, as fighting to retake Marawi City winds down, said Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año here on Saturday.

The Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf, led by Radullon Sahiron, its Basilan-faction, led by Furuji Indama, and a militia in Maguindanao, led by Commander Bongos, are the next subjects of the military campaign to cleanse Mindanao of extremism, said Año, who was given a testimonial parade by Philippine Military Academy cadets ahead of his mandatory retirement on Oct. 26.

He said the Islamic State-in-

fluenced Maute group was finished, and the remaining fighters were holding out inside two structures "so maybe today [Saturday] or tomorrow [Sunday] this will be over."

"We just gave them time to surrender and to allow them to release hostages. We didn't want innocent civilians to be harmed or killed in a close fight," he said.

He said the group's defeat proved that all forms of terrorism "could be quashed efficiently and quickly, if everyone helps out."

### Community help

"When people report suspicious strangers entering their communities, the information enables the Armed Forces of the

Philippines and the Philippine National Police to plan and react promptly to any threat they bring," he said.

"Our AFP is ready 24 hours a day, but it needs to be guided. We need to know where the signs of terrorism are so we can quickly suppress violence and protect communities," he said.

He declined to take credit for the Marawi liberation. "I am happy the Marawi crisis is over. But I am just the team leader [of a joint military push augmented by the PNP]. All leaders of the Maute Isis are dead. We have killed 908 enemies. We are very confident there are no more ISIS elements in the country, and we will make sure [the terrorist siege in Marawi] never

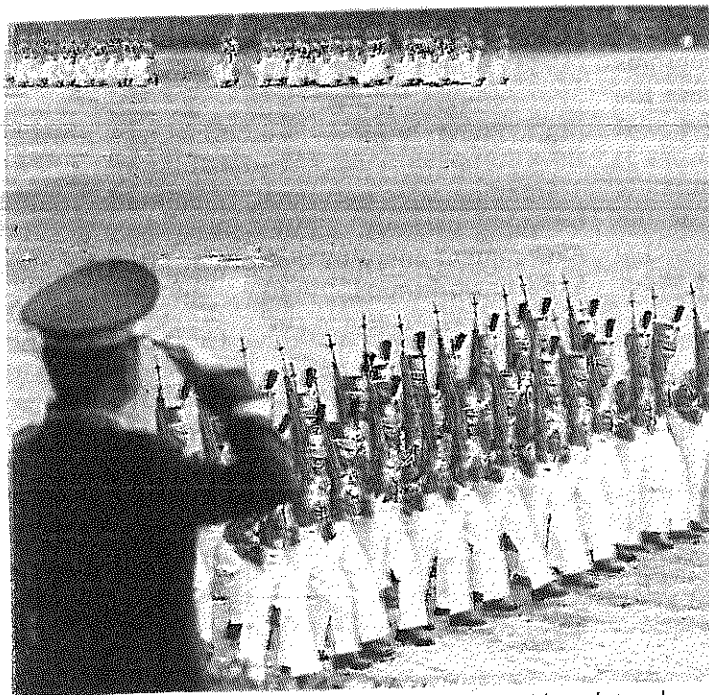
happens again."

When asked, he said Dr. Mahmud Ahmad, the supposed Malaysian financier of the Marawi siege, had been killed and buried, citing two separate sources.

### More troops to Mindanao

Año said the military's task was to track down Ahmad's grave site. "I believe he is dead. We don't monitor him anymore [in the areas where the last Maute fighters are holding out]."

He added, "We will next deploy troops to Sulu, Basilan and Maguindanao so by the end of 2017, we would have taken down all remnants of armed terrorists operating in the region." —VINCE CABREZA WITH A REPORT FROM EV ESPIRITU INQ



AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año salutes PMA cadets who gave him a testimonial parade on Saturday. —EV ESPIRITU

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# INQUIRER

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## DUTERTE: BE PREPARED FOR ANY TERRORIST ATTACK

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte on Sunday night urged the nation to be prepared for any terrorist attack as the fighting in Marawi City wound down.

Mr. Duterte said the ideology of the pro-Islamic State terrorists who laid siege to Marawi was "dedicated to killing human beings."

"In the coming days, with the siege that ... I'm not trying to scare you. Let us just be prepared for any eventuality," he said in a speech in Bacolod City.

The President was in the city to attend the 38th MassKara Festival.

### 'Terrorism is everywhere'

"Terrorism is everywhere. No nation has escaped from the clutches of the evil of the (Islamic State) ideology dedicated to just kill human beings and destroy places," he said.

Government troops are trying to end the fighting in Marawi on Sunday, with a handful of Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists making a last stand in a two-story building by Lanao Lake.

Mr. Duterte declared the city

"liberated from terrorists' influence" on Tuesday, marking "the beginning of rehabilitation."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that the lifting of martial law that Mr. Duterte had clamped on Mindanao to quell the terrorist uprising would be discussed before the end of October.

Mr. Duterte said, however, that martial law in Mindanao would stay until the last terrorist had been killed.

### Up to yearend

Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri and Gregorio Honasan followed

up on Sunday, saying martial law should stay up to the end of the year to ensure that sympathizers of the Maute group would not be able to create trouble.

"For the protection of our construction and rehabilitation volunteers and members, martial law should remain until Dec. 31," Zubiri said in a radio interview.

"Actually, Congress has decided that martial law should remain in place [in Mindanao] until the end of the year not just to make sure that the [island] is cleared but also that the situation [has stabilized]," Honasan said in a separate radio interview. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Peace is possible - military

By **NONOY E. LACSON,**  
**BONITA L. ERMAC,**  
and **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - The local government unit of Marawi City and soldiers from the Joint Task Force Marawi including various stakeholders launched on Saturday a mural painting for "peace and order" in Barangay Kalunungan East Pantar, Lanao del Norte.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-West-MinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said Brig Gen. Roseller Murillo, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, Philippine Army led the soldiers in the mural painting activities.

The activity was anchored on the theme "Peace is Possible," the activity was held in collaboration with Junior Chamber International (JCI) San Juan Dambana, Davies Paint Reinvented, and Peace is Possible.

Students from Mindanao State University (MSU) and their different school organizations as well as talents chosen from among the Internally Displaced Persons living in different evacuation centers also joined in painting the 80-meters long walls along the highway of Kalunungan West Pantar.

"We have accomplished everything with solidarity and we intend to reach more of our objectives to bring peace and stability in Mindanao," Murillo said.

"Let us continue to work together to defeat terrorism in the regions. We would like to extend our gratitude to you for supporting us all the way," Murillo added.

AFP-WestMinCom Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said "Your soldiers fully support this kind of activities that promote peace and healing and I am glad that our brothers who were displaced due to the crisis in Marawi showed strong support by participating."

"We will make sure that more peace initiatives will be done to help comfort our brother Maranaos," Galvez said.

### Peace is possible

The peace mural, dubbed as "Peace is Possible" came up after a realization that peace can be attained with the help of everyone, said Major Jeffrex Molina, Commander, Public Affairs Task Unit, Joint Task Group Tabang.

"Ang mga sakripisyo na ibinuhos ng ating mga sundalo, ng ating mga kabataan, ng mga Maranao mismo na nakipagtulungan upang makamtan natin ang kapayapaan ay ibinuhos sa pamamagitan ng peace mural na ito." (The sacrifices made by our soldiers, our youth, the Maranaoans, we put them all together and poured all our energies into making this peace mural), Molina said.

The activity started last Friday and ended on Sunday.



# Senate eyes P50 billion for Marawi rehabilitation

By BUTCH FERNANDEZ @butchBM & ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES @alyasjah

**A** SPECIAL Senate Committee on Crisis will visit Marawi's ground zero to assess the war's damage and facilitate passage of an estimated P50-billion funding to rebuild the war-torn city.

Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri over the weekend appealed to Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan II, Crisis Committee chairman, to convene the panel and ask government agencies concerned, including the Department of Public Works and Highways and the National Housing Authority, to brief senators on the Marawi situation as soon as possible.

"Hopefully, we can schedule the visit on the first week of November," Zubiri said, "so that, after the briefing at the Senate, we will do the [Marawi] ocular inspection to get the feel on the ground."

Zubiri said he intends to bat for the inclusion of P50-billion allocation for Marawi either in the 2018 budget or under a special fund. This is apart from the initial P5-billion Bangon Marawi fund that Sen. Grace Poe is proposing for inclusion in the 2018 national budget.

"I was thinking it [Marawi rehab fund] should be tucked under the 2018 budget that we will tackle in November, or a special supplemental budget," Zubiri told the BUSINESSMIRROR. "But, if P50 billion is needed, it might be too large an amount to cut from the other agencies

funding in the annual budget; so, more likely, it will be a supplemental budget so we don't touch the regular budget."

Zubiri added he intends to request for a Senate briefing on the Marawi situation before session resumes in mid-November. "Then we can fly to Marawi for an actual observation to see what is needed."

Honasan, however, is not rushing to visit Marawi, saying he would rather let the Armed Forces finish the clearing operations.

In a separate interview, Honasan suggested that the Senate inspection of the battle zone be deferred until the area is cleared. "We want to be sure that the area is not just cleared, but also the situation is safe for assessing plans for reconstruction-recovery and development of the area."

"Let us wait for them to finish the task," Honasan said, adding that President Duterte earlier estimated that only one hectare of the battle zone is left to be cleared. "Also important for us is to first get what is called post-conflict needs assessment, so we will know the requirement," Honasan added.

Meanwhile, Malacañang last Saturday assured the public that the military is keeping its guard active in Marawi City, even after Duterte has declared the besieged municipality free from terrorist influences.

In a statement, Presidential Spokesman Ernesto C. Abella said some government troops might have been sent home, but this does not mean the fight in Marawi City is over. "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," Abella added.

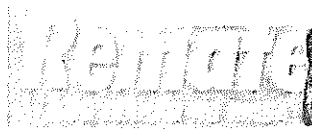
The President last Tuesday declared Marawi City liberated, one day after the military killed terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.

Hapilon is the self-styled emir of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia, while Omar is the last of the infamous Maute leaders.

However, the deaths of Hapilon and Maute and the liberation of Marawi City do not mean the lifting of martial law in Mindanao, according to the military.

In spite of the significant developments on the ground, Abella said government troops will not let their guard down against possible retaliation from pockets of Daesh-inspired groups.

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



## Sundalo 'di kukubra ng reward money

NILINAW kahapon ng tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na si Major General Restituto Padilla, Jr., na ang multi-milyong dolyar na reward sa pagkakatay sa dalawang lider ng teroristang grupong Abu Sayyaf at Maute-ISIS ay hindi mapupunta sa government troops.

Bagkus ay sa ilang sibilan na mga impormante ang bagsak ng \$5M pabuya ng Estados Unidos pero isasailalim pa umano ang mga ito sa validation ng US Federal agents.

"The reward moneys are not intended for soldiers, maliban na lang po nung ibinigay ng ating pamahalaan na nangagaling sa ating Pangulo, na sinabi niya wala siyang binigay na specific na sinong itanggap, ang sinabi niya lang kung sinong makakukuha sa dalawa," pahayag ni Padilla.

"Ang reward money po ay intended sa mga impormante pong nagbigay ng impormasyon pero iyan ay isusumite

para sa isang masusing validation," dagdag pa ng opisyal.

Sinabi pa ni Padilla na mayroon umanong itinalaga na committee para manguna sa mahigpit na pag-review at pagproseso sa pagbibigay ng reward sa mga impormante.

Gitit pa nito na ang tatanggap ng reward na una nang inalok ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para sa pag-neutralize sa mga lider ng teroristang grupo ay masusipang dinedetermina.

Pero bukas naman ang AFP sa isyu kung sakaling sa mga sundalo partikular sa mga nakapatay kina Hapilon at Omar ibibigay ng Pangulo ang reward money.

"Kung maalala n'yo po noong unang buwan o pangalawang buwan ng bakbakan diyan, siya ay maglalaan ng tig-tiglimang milyon bawat high-value targets na ito at binanggit niya na ibibigay niya kung sino man ang makakukuha at hindi niya sinabi na ito ay para sa impormante kaya magbibigay daan po kami sa opisina ng ating mahal na Pangulo upang

ikumpirma 'yan at ibigay sa nararapat kung sinoman ang gusto nila," ani pa ni Padilla.

Nitong buwan ng Hunyo, nag-alok si Pangulong Duterte ng halagang P10M pabuya para kay Hapilon at ig-P5M naman bawat isa sa ulo ng magkapatid na Abdullah at Omar Maute, bukod pa rito ang naunang reward money ng US government sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) ng \$5M para kay Hapilon lamang.

Samantala, patuloy pa na hinihintay ng AFP ang paglabas ng resulta ng FBI sa DNA test sa labi ni Omar kasunod ito sa kumpirmasyon ng DNA test kay Hapilon.

"Yung kay Hapilon ay kumpirmado, officially na-convey na sa atin 'yung DNA na resulta ng FBI at 'yan ay bagay na kinakailangan nilang gawin. 'Yung kay Omar ay isinasagawa rin subalit hindi panatin nakukuha 'yung confirmation sa kasalukuyan," pagtatapos ni Padilla. JEFF GALLOS

## Pulis, militar target ang mga anak ni Hapilon

TINUTUGIS na rin ngayon ng militar at pulisya ang tatlong anak ng napaslang na Abu Sayyaf Group leader at Emir ng ISIS sa South East Asia na si Isnihapilon Hapilon.

Bukod sa mga anak ni Hapilon, dalawang Malaysian nationals kabilang na si Amin

Baco ang focus ngayon ng pinaigting na pagtugis ng tropa ng gobyerno dahil isa ito sa mga nagpasimula ng ISIS movement sa mga foreign terrorist sa bahagi ng timog-silangang Asya.

Ayon kay Lieutenant-General Carlito Galvez, commander ng Western Mindanao

Command, nasa 20 na lamang na mga terorista ang nananatiling nakikipaglaban sa Marawi City at kabilang na rito ang mga anak ni Hapilon at dalawang Malaysian nationals.

Dagdag ni Galvez, hindi nila masasabing tapos na ang kanilang misyon habang nasa loob pa ng main battle area (MBA) ang naturang mga terorista.

Sinabi pa ni Galvez na patuloy na nahihirapan ang mga terorista dahil sa pagliit ng kanilang hawak na teritoryo sa lungsod.

Inaasahan ng militar na tuluyang matatapos ang giyera kapag napulbos na ang natitira pang mga terorista sa sunod na mga araw. JEFF G

13 October 2017



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## Media pinako-cover sa inspeksiyon sa bagahe ng Marawi soldiers

Sa layong maalis na ang pagdududa, hinikayat ng pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang mga mamamahayag na i-cover ang ginagawang pag-i-inspeksiyon sa mga gamit ng mga sundalong umaalis ng Marawi City.

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, ang kanyang mungkahi ay upang maalis na ang agam-

agam ng publiko sa paratang ng ilang mga residente na umano y rinakaw ng ilang sundalo ang mga kagamitang naiwan sa mga inabandonang bahay sa loob ng main battle area sa lungsod.

Inamin ni Padilla na nakalulungkot na napagbibintangan pa ang mga sundalo na nakipaglaban at nagsakripisyo para sa

kalayaan ng lungsod. Gayunman, handa naman ang mga sundalo na sumailalim sa kaukulang imbestigasyon.

Napag-alaman na hindi pinapapayagan ang mga sundalo na makaalis ng Marawi nang hindi dumaraan sa masusing inspeksiyon ang mga kagamitang dala ng mga ito.

“Nakita naman po

kamakalawa bago umalis ang mga sundalo ng 1st IB at sa Marines nagkaroon ng open baggages sa harap ng publiko, talaga pong ininspeksiyon ang mga gamit nila at nakita naman po na ang dala nila ay yung mga damit lang nila mula nang dumating sila, mga personal items nila at mga firearms nila,” giit pa ni Padilla. (Betchai Julian)

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# AFP: Martial law still needed in Mindanao

By EFREN MONTANO

ARMED Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said yesterday that Martial Law in Mindanao is still needed until the end of the year, despite the deaths of top terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute, and Malaysian Dr. Mahmud Ahmad in Marawi City.

"Kinakailangan pa po natin ito hanggang sa katapusan ng taon at sisikapin nating magawa lahat ng kinakailangan upang ma-address lahat ng natitira pang networks ng mga terrorist groups na ito," Padilla said.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier said that Martial Law in Mindanao would not be lifted until the gov-

ernment has neutralized all terrorists in the region.

Earlier, Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella had said that Martial Law was still needed due to the "remnants" of supporters of the armed extremist groups.

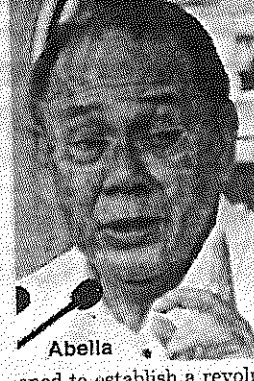
Duterte declared Martial Law in Mindanao on May 23 after the ISIS-inspired Maute group attacked Marawi City. Seeing that the battle to liberate Marawi was not easy as earlier expected, Duterte requested for Martial Law extension until December 31, which Congress granted.

Duterte declared Marawi City liberated from the Maute terrorists on October 16, after the government troops killed top terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.

Padilla also said that Duterte did not mention to



Padilla



Abella

government troops his plan to declare a revolutionary government.

Padilla said that government troops are focused on quelling terror forces in Mindanao, especially in Marawi City and the President did not give any word about the supposed plan.

Duterte earlier threat-

ened to establish a revolutionary government amid supposed attempts by his critics to destabilize his administration.

But Abella said that the President's remarks was just an "approach" to resolve the "country's endemic and structural problems hindering genuine progress."

# 6 battalions of soldiers to help Marawi City rehabilitation

By ZAIDA DE LOS REYES-PALANCA

THERE will be six battalions of soldiers who will remain and help in the rehabilitation of the war-torn city of Marawi.

This was bared to Department of National Defense (DND) secretary Delfin Lorenzana as he announced that the rehabilitation of Marawi City has already started.

"There will be six battalions to remain for the rehabilitation phase," Lorenzana said.

According to Lorenzana the restoration of Marawi started with the deployment of the Post Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA) teams composed of 200 people from various agencies in the area.

The PCNA will be the one to conduct assessment of damages and will estimate the cost of rehabilitation.

Lorenzana said based on the initial assessment, the rehab will take one to two weeks.

In line with this, Loren-

zana confirmed that the engineering brigade of their department and the DPWH already started their clearing operation by removing debris and clearing the roads in the area.

Marawi City composed of 96 barangays was devastated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) inspired Maute Terror Group led by Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.

Meanwhile, Department of Public Works and Highways hopes to finish its site development of transitory shelters road network for Marawi evacuees by next month.

DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar said they have already started conducting an aerial and on-the-ground inspection of Marawi City and are now working on timely completion of site development works where the first batch of transitory houses for Marawi siege evacuees will be built.

"The area being developed by DPWH in Barangay Sagongsongan, Marawi City, can accommodate 1,100 families. We are doing every-

thing we can to finish it by November. Currently, we are preparing a portion of the site where the National Housing Authority can build a total of 275 transitory houses," Villar said.

"Once the sites are developed, NHA may begin the construction stage of the needed transitory shelters of Marawi siege internally-displaced persons," he added.

The DPWH chief disclosed that a total of P241.69-million is allocated for the land development of Sagongsongan Village. This will cover the clearing and grubbing, fuel and model house cost amounting to P20.64-million and the asphalt overlay and drainage works within five initial areas of the site costing P142.6-million and additional four hectares and two hectares sites proposed by Marawi City officials in the amount of P51.9-million and P26.5-million respectively.

The Post-Conflict Needs Assessment Team has also been deployed in Marawi to assess damages of infra-

structure and road networks in the area.

"As head of the Subcommittee on Reconstruction, DPWH has deployed 25 representatives, 12 engineers from the Central Office and 13 from the Regional Office/District Engineering Offices of Region X," Villar noted. With Lee Ann P. Ducusin

23 October 2017

PUBLIC FILES

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# BASAHIN! BAKIT INABOT NG 5 BUWAN ANG GIYERA SA MARAWI?

**MARAWI CITY —** Kulang sa training at mga kagamitan sa urban warfare ang dahilan kaya tumagal ang pagsugpo ng militar sa local terrorist na Maute-ISIS dito, sabi ng nangunang ground commander dito.

Ayon kay Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander ng Joint Task Group Ranao, kailangan nilang pagbutihin pa ang pag-deploy ng tropa, kagamitan at taktika para magapi ang mga miyembro ng lumaki dito na terror groups na Abu Sayyaf at Maute, na nagtangkang gawing base ang predominantly Muslim city.

Dineklara na ng gobyerno ang paglawa ng Marawi mula sa mga

kamay ng mga terorista, bagama't may mangilang ngilang pang putok na narinig sa main battle field, pero anila'y stragglers, o remnants nalang ito ng Abu Sayyaf at Maute na malapit naring ma-neutralize.

Sinabi ni Brawner na sa kabilang ng kanilang kakulangan sa mga kagamitan at training, ang pagpapabuti ang naging pangunahing dahilan para mapatay nila ang mga lider ng terorista na magkakapatid na sina

Abdullah, Madie at Omar Maute at IS Southeast Asia "emir" Isnilon Hapilon ng Abu Sayyaf.

Nasa 900 miyembro ng terorista ang napatay sa bakbakan na nagsimula noong Mayo 23 hanggang nitong Sabado, habang 158 militar at 6 pulis ang nalagas sa pamahalaan. Umabot naman sa 1,700 ang sugatan sa tropa, karamihan ay nasabugan ng improvised explosive devices (IED) at sniper fire.

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

Ang mga sundalo, ayon sa isa pang ground commander na ayaw pabanggit ng pangalan, ay sinanay aniya sa bakbakan sa bundok at kagubatan at hindi sa mga labanan sa gusali, makikitid na daan na may dikit-dikt na kabahayan at tunnels.

"We came to realize that our training was not appropriate," sabi ng kumander. "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."

Sa unang assault aniya ng tropa sa loob na bahagi ng lungsod, nag-utos siyang gamitan ng mortars pero nakita niyang hindi ito epektibo dahil sa makakapal na pader ng mga gusali.

"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," sabi ng kumander sa hanay ng mga malalaking gusali na pinagtataguan ng mga kalaban, kungsaan inabot sila ng tatlong buwan bago nakuha ang erya.

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

Sinabi ni Brawner na ang nakuha nilang leksyon sa giyera sa city ay magiging laman na ng kanilang training manual. "We will have to amend our doctrine," sabi ni Brawner. "We have to retrain our soldiers."

Nakikita aniyang sa lungsod na ang digmaan sa mga sunod na panahon.

**3rd batch ng mga sundalo mula Marawi, balik-Maynila**

DUMATING na ang ikatlong batch ng mga sundalo na sumabak sa giyera sa Marawi sa Villamor Airbase, Pasay City kahapon ng madaling-araw.

Ayon kay Maj Albert Estabilla, Deputy Chief for Public Affairs Office ng Philippine Air Force, pasado 1:45 ng madaling-araw nang lumapag lulan ng C130 cargo plane ang 119 na sundalong mula sa hanay ng Philippine Army at Marines.

Sabik na sabik na sinalubong ang mga sundalo ng kanilang mga kaanak maapos ang halos limang buwan na bakbakan kontra teroristang grupong Maute.

Kaugnay ng kanilang pagbabalik Maynila ay maghahanda narin ang kanilang tropa para naman sa nalalapit na 31st Asean Summit sa Nobyembre.

Una rito, dumating narin alas-3:00 Sabado ng hapon ang marine batallion, army first battalion at ilang scout rangers na lulan naman C130 at C295 plane.

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# PAF sergeant linked to Fil-Am's slay

By Krixia Subingsubing  
@kasubingsubing

A sergeant of the Philippine Air Force has been arrested for hiring a gunman who killed a 63-year-old Filipino-American inside a taxi cab in Valenzuela City on Oct. 18.

Staff Sgt. Gilberto Canada Raro Jr., 39, confessed to the crime when the police caught up with him in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan on Saturday following a two-day surveillance operation.

He admitted to hiring Avelino Tamayo Jr. who was identified as the man who killed Fil-Am Antonio Fermo, according to SPO4 Antonio Delima of the Valenzuela police.

Tamayo was also arrested during a follow-up operation in front of a mall in Calamba, Laguna, on Sunday morning.

Recovered from him was the 9mm pistol believed to have been used in the shooting of Fermo.

The police said they confirmed Raro's active duty status

through his Armed Forces of the Philippines identification card and statements of witnesses.

Raro's job included providing security for VIPs, including a prominent political family, said SPO2 Felix Biernes.

## Motive

The Air Force sergeant told investigators that he was paid P100,000 by a German woman, whom he used to work for as a bodyguard, to kill Fermo.

The German had complained that Fermo duped her

into giving him \$10,000 in exchange for arranging a sham marriage which would allow her to become an American citizen. The deal, however, fell through.

Raro said he hired Tamayo for P50,000 to kill Fermo. It was Tamayo who went to the victim's house in Manotoc Subdivision, Barangay Marulas, on Oct. 18 to inquire about a property the Fil-Am was renting out, the police said.

The victim and gunman left the house two hours later in a cab that had been waiting for

them out front.

The cab driver, Ferdinand Marcon Cawelan, earlier told police that two men, later identified as Raro and Tamayo, had hailed him at Monumento.

They asked him to bring them to Fermo's house and to wait for them.

## Getaway van

While on board the cab, the gunman shot the victim, alighted from the vehicle and then got into a white van which had been following the taxi.

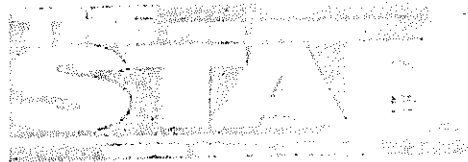
Raro later told the police that he was the driver of the getaway van.

Through the van's license plate which was identified through the footage taken by a closed-circuit television camera on MacArthur Highway where the victim was shot, investigators ended up at San Jose del Monte, Bulacan province where Raro was caught. INQ



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# AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

## 150 days of war

At last after 150 days of battle, 47 civilians, 163 government troops, 847 militants dead, and 78,466 families or 359,680 persons displaced, the Maranaos are on their way to rebuilding their lives. But is the war really over?



Marawi is down to its last pebble, crushed to the ground. All these in exchange for the head of Isnilon Hapilon, a Filipino Islamist militant affiliated with ISIS and former leader of Abu Sayyaf group who was later appointed as "emir of all Islamic State forces in the Philippines. His partner Omar Khayam Maute a Moro militant who co-founded along with his brother Abdullah Maute, a Dawlah Islamiyah group in Mindanao, popularly known as the Maute group was also killed.

Marawi is called the premier Muslim city of the Philippines. It is the capital and the only city in the province of Lanao del Sur in Mindanao. It is a predominantly Muslim city with 99.6 percent of the population being Muslims. Its economy is largely based on agriculture, trading and exporting. Most industries in the city are agriculture-based. Small and cottage-size enterprises are engaged in garment making, mat and malong weaving, wood carving, brassware making and blacksmithing.

Marawi is home to Mindanao State University's main campus, the biggest state university in Mindanao, next to the University of the Philippines. The NPC - Agus 1 Hydro Electric Power Plant and the first of the six cascading Agus Hydro Power Plants are also there.

The battle in Marawi began on May 23 when the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police tried to capture Isnilon Hapilon. Militants of the Maute group retaliated by launching an attack in Marawi. It was during this time that Hapilon was in Marawi with his supporters. The Maute group and Hapilon's fighters armed with high-caliber firearms took a priest and his congregation hostage, freed prisoners from the local jail, and overran the city. The fighting persisted until nothing was left of Marawi. The government's response was the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao.

Amidst the jubilation of victory over the Maute group by our military forces, there are some things that continue to bother me. How did the war last for 150 days? Where did the continuous supply of ammunition come from? How could such high-powered firearms get into the country unnoticed and worst unchecked? How could have the enemy survived that long?

I am dumbfounded by how fast the Maute regrouped and replenished their firearms lost in fight. Who supplied them food and water? Were there powerful backers in the local scene? While our forces were diminishing in number and in strength, the enemies seemed to be gaining more ground, more power and more support. Shouldn't our forces have the edge on this battle? Why did it take us 150 days? What is the truth behind the war in Marawi?

Why are many people from Luzon and from the Visayas unfazed with this war? Why do they seem unaffected? My father, the late Maximó V. Soliven, once wrote: *Those of us who spent many years going back and forth, actually camping out in Matata, Jolo itself, and Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga and Basilan (where my sister's and her late husband's rubber and copra plantation - now "taken" away from them after many decades of risk and hard labor in Galayan, Maluso, where, by the way, the Abu Sayyaf was "born"), in the Maranao hinterlands of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, in Maguindanao, and South Cotabato, aren't speaking out of second-hand or textbook knowledge. But we're still "outsiders." We ultimately are from Luzon. Our kinfolk and friends who actually live there (my son-in-law's family is third-generation) are the ones who know the score. Truly, we are still divided. Divided by culture and religion and we just do not care.*

Our country has always had a history of invasions: Spanish, Japanese, American, Dutch, and the British. To this day, there are still outside forces that seem to want to rule over us. The sad reality is that we allow it and to a point almost want it.

When will we learn to love and protect our country even more? We need to send a strong message to everyone that we are not for sale. We should stop allowing foreigners to manipulate us. Our envoys should be incarcerated to death if they betray the country.

I'm glad the President put his foot down to fight and save Mindanao. What would have been the fate of this country if the ISIS group won over our troops in Marawi and raise that black flag over the city?

Now that Hapilon and Maute are dead, what is going to happen next? How true is it that Malaysian terrorist Amin Bacu is now the new leader of the 20 Maute-ISIS bandits who are still fighting the soldiers in a small part of Marawi City?

Our wish for a just and lasting peace in Mindanao cannot be based on the number of surrenders made by the enemy, the many compromises our government had to do that resulted to nothing, or the establishment of a "territory" only for Muslim people. As my father would often say, the only meaningful settlement (no thanks to that Tripoli Agreement, signed with such cynicism and lack of wisdom by the Marcos martial-law government) would be for Muslims and Christians to finally learn – after three centuries of suspicion, hostility, betrayal and conflict – to live with one another. But this will never happen if "Moro" enclaves and jerry-built "autonomous Muslim" provinces continue to be created to suit the desires of local Moro warlords, chieftains and politicians who have no concern, really for their Muslim followers and virtual serfs. Yet, that's what we've been doing.

If we continue to relate this way, then we, Muslims and Christians together, are doomed for more disappointments of renewed fighting. The vicious cycle continues.

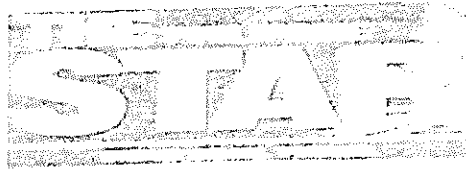
Indeed, this is not yet the time to celebrate. The war is not yet over. There are terrorists lurking out there, dispatched by another rebel group, waiting for the right time to sow terror and chaos all over again. Vigilance is what's important. The President is right. This is not the time to lift Martial Law in the area. Everything is still very uncertain.

Who are the real enemies? If we think deeper we will realize that those rebel groups are but 'superficial' enemies. The real enemies are no one else but ourselves!

★



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## SKETCHES ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

### A new Marawi

As of yesterday afternoon, the military was aiming to clear by day's end the last building in Marawi still occupied by Maute gunmen. This was after the last of the hostages, about 20 of them, were freed over the weekend.



The images of destruction in Marawi are depressing, but there's opportunity in a crisis. The government must decide early on whether it wants to simply patch up what's been destroyed, or turn Marawi into a model for a well-planned, sustainable city that is uniquely Muslim Filipino.

After serving as a battleground, parts of Marawi can also be developed into a zone dedicated to peace and a multicultural, interfaith community. A memorial can be set up for the hundreds killed in extremist violence, including 165 soldiers.

Displaced residents are trickling back into liberated zones even as sporadic gunfire continued until yesterday afternoon. The Mautes enjoyed a degree of political and grassroots support, which allowed them to stage the surprise attack in May and engage the Armed Forces of the Philippines for five months. It's hard to tell which civilians returning to Marawi are among the Maute supporters, and there's the persistent risk that the group can continue staging violent attacks while the city is trying to rebuild itself. Even President Duterte is tempering the AFP victory, warning of more terrorist attacks.

This kind of environment complicates any effort to build a well-planned new Marawi. In the first place, we've never been good at planned development.

Just look at property development in Metro Manila and surrounding areas. The best laid plans for sustainable communities end up by the wayside once the major developers decide to maximize land use. Everything eventually ends up like a concrete jungle where every available space, whether vertically or horizontally, is squeezed out for stratospheric rental.

What's a sustainable city? One that's clean, green, with efficient mass transportation so fewer people feel the need to use their own cars so there's less traffic and pollution. The sidewalks are wide enough to include a bicycle lane, with space left over for people to jog or walk their dogs. There are enough parks or green recreational areas where people can freely congregate, with areas set aside for vendors and weekend flea markets featuring local products and artwork.

Because of its higher elevation, Marawi enjoys cooler weather. Tourism can take off from the city's Sacred Mountain National Park, which features an extinct volcano.

Marawi reportedly has an extensive underground sewerage system that the Mautes used (not tunnels that they themselves supposedly dug up). This can be expanded for a subway that can become the first in the Philippines, ahead even of the one planned for Metro Manila that will likely become derailed in another corruption scandal for the next half century.

The city faces a lake where water sports can be promoted, and the lakeside can have a wharf and cruise stop for tourism. Marawi can be a hub for halal food production and the cuisines of Muslim-majority countries.

All this may sound quixotic, given the persistent security threats and the violence engendered by drug trafficking - now believed to be a major source of funding for Islamic extremists. But which big city does not face a terrorist threat?

Marawi evacuees now returning to their communities don't have the luxury of time to wait for well-planned development. They need solid shelters ASAP that can withstand typhoons and floods. They need the speedy restoration of basic services: water and electricity, telecommunications, mass transportation, food supply networks and markets. They need employment and livelihood opportunities. The children need to resume their education.

Realistically, however, everyone knows swift recovery is unlikely. The areas devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda have not yet fully recovered, and those disaster zones don't face threats from the Mautes and Islamic State. "Building back better" - the buzz phrase for the post-Yolanda reconstruction - is moving along slowly.

Since rebuilding is expected to be slow anyway, why not plan it well, and create a truly better city?

President Duterte, who keeps saying he hates corruption, can see to it that the Marawi rebuilding effort will be supervised by competent officials.

Wealthy Islamic states can be tapped for assistance or cooperation in the reconstruction effort. It will be in their self-interest to see Marawi built back better and resistant to the attractions of extremist violence. The Islamic State is on the run in Syria and Iraq – and militants tend to find followers in unstable, unsafe societies where public discontent runs deep. If IS manages to set up a new base of operations in Mindanao, it can use the base for exporting terrorism around the world.

Other cities and countries have made remarkable recovery from the ravages of war and blood-drenched internecine conflict. Hiroshima is a lovely, peaceful city, and Tokyo is consistently rated as a favorite travel destination including of the well heeled. Germany is home to several of the world's most sustainable cities. South Korea, although technically in a state of war, is one of Asia's economic powerhouses.

That kind of recovery is no longer possible for Manila, which was one of the most devastated cities during World War II. The city – including the neighboring cities and towns that would constitute Greater Manila (later Metro Manila) – simply kept expanding in an anything-goes way, with little attempt to prevent urban blight.

In recent years, there were ambitious plans to turn Bonifacio Global City into a model for sustainability, but now it's just another area where the privileged .001 percent is engaged in maximizing real estate profitability.

Marawi, flattened by armed conflict, has a chance to be a model for sustainability.



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## General Año should stay as AFP chief

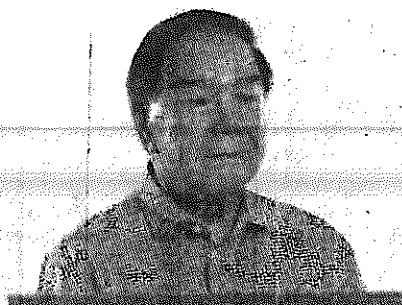
Last Saturday in time-honored rituals signifying the end of a brilliant military career, retiring military chief Gen. Eduardo Año, Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1983, received his final salute in uniform from the Corps of Cadets Armed Forces of the Philippines. On the same hallowed grounds where 38 years ago he vowed allegiance to the flag and service to his people, Año bade farewell to the long, gray line and the institution that shaped and sustained a lifetime in the profession of arms.

Speaking before the cadet corps, Año recalled his days as a cadet wearing the same uniform and engaging in the same activities. Earlier, he was faced with a decision to become a priest or to join the PMA. He chose the latter. "The PMA made me strong when I was weak; brave when I was afraid." But he always kept in mind that "at the end of the day, the final arbiter in all our actions is our own conscience."

He noted that "the Marawi campaign was led by majority of PMA graduates." Almost 80 percent of the ground commanders are from the academy. And he leaves the service proud and fulfilled because he has worked with the finest soldiers in the region. "I am truly proud of our soldiers."

Somehow, I was reminded of another farewell address by one of America's greatest military figures, Gen. Douglas MacArthur. In his last and perhaps most memorable speech to the cadet corps of the US Military Academy in 1962, he told the cadets that they were facing a new world, a world of change.

"And through all this welter of change and development, your mission remains fixed, determined, inviolable. It is to win wars. Everything else in your professional career is but corollary to this vital dedication... You are the ones who are trained to fight.



**REVELLE**

RAMON J. FAROLAN

"Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, that if you lose, the nation will be destroyed..."

"Today marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps."

On Thursday, Año is scheduled to retire from the AFP since he will be reaching age 56, the compulsory retirement age for military personnel. He has spent less than a year as AFP chief of staff.

A NEW CHIEF OF STAFF ON THURSDAY WOULD BE THE 20TH AFP CHIEF IN THE FIRST 17 YEARS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

As early as May this year, President Duterte already announced that Año would be the next secretary of the interior and local government. It is a tribute to Año that even before his retirement from the AFP, the President already tapped him for another position just as critical and sensitive as the one he now holds. As I mentioned in an earlier column, Año has the reputation of a professional soldier with no political attachments, and the ability to deliver when a job has to be done.

Although some fighting continues, we must now turn to reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for Marawi. Año deserves much of the credit. The siege took longer than expected because we were not prepared for a different dimension in a conflict that previously was mostly fought in the jungles. It showed that no one was looking beyond the horizon. There was little time devoted for planning and execution with different scenarios in mind.

Now more than ever, we need Año to continue as AFP chief. The battle for Marawi may have come to an end but the requirement to re-orient the Armed Forces remains an urgent matter of vital importance, and Año is best suited for the job. He knows what needs to be done and the last thing we would like to see is another "revolving door" action that may please a few, but will not benefit the military organization. A new chief of staff on Thursday would be the 20th AFP chief in the first 17 years of the 21st century.

We must keep in mind that this is not the end of the Islamic State threat in the Philippines. It is only the beginning and we are likely to see the emergence of other leaders, younger and more aggressive than those we have eliminated. We have to keep in mind what Plato, the philosopher said: "Only the dead have seen the end of war." We must never let our guard down. Much remains to be done.

Often the face of war is reflected on the faces of those who are tasked to report periodically to the public, the status of the conflict.

For the Armed Forces, it is the recently promoted Air Force Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., Class 1985. He is the son of Gen. Restituto Padilla Sr., former commanding general of the Army, Class 1957. He is concurrently head of Plans and Programs (J-5) at GHQ, AFP.

For the forces on the ground, the face of Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Class 1989, is most prominent. He is the son of former Cômelec commissioner Romeo Brawner Sr. and the nephew of Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner, Class 1957. As deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao, Brawner reports to Brig. Gen. Ramiro Rey, Class 1987, the commander of the task force and head of the Special Forces Regiment.

Joint Task Force Marawi is headed by Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamónag, Class 1985. He took over from Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista, the recently designated commanding general of the Philippine Army. Pamónag also heads Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident that has overall control of direct military action against enemy forces in Marawi. The force is composed of Special Operations units from the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Marines.

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# After Marawi, AFP turning to NPA

**W**ITH its success in finally getting the top two remaining leaders of the terrorist-rebel Maute Group that attacked Marawi City last May 23, nearly five months ago, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has now set its sights on the Communist insurgency of the New People's Army (NPA).

Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the AFP, said the Philippine Army (PA) battalions that have been fighting the war in Marawi will now be redeployed in Eastern Mindanao, where many remote areas are said to be infested by the NPA. The PA is recruiting 5,000 troopers and will activate 10 additional infantry battalions, and six will be deployed in Eastern Mindanao, the general said.

It is good to hear such optimism from the general, but we must not lose sight of the fact that the NPA is an old problem for the Philippine government. It has been around since 1969 - 48 years ago - when it was formed by Bernabe Buscayno, alias Commander Dante, and Lucio Manlapaz with the goal of carrying out a "people's war" as the armed force of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Over the years, several administrations initiated peace talks with the NPA but they all broke down, possibly because the Philippine government, with its democratic traditions, could not accept many demands of the NPA. When President Duterte assumed office last year, one of his first acts

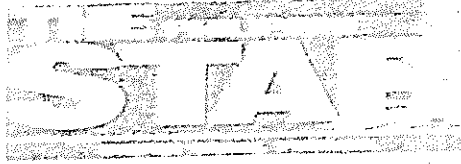
was to reach out to Jose Manlapaz Sison, founding chairman of the CPP, and several meetings were subsequently held in Norway and the Netherlands. But these too have now broken down.

General Año said President Duterte has now issued this new mandate for the AFP to turn its attention to the NPA. Evidently aware that this is not a purely military problem, Año said the government will soon start a massive economic development program. It will be constructing major highways, bridges, and railways in Mindanao, which, he said, cannot be done if the peace and order problem persists.

The government can also look over the preliminary agreements reached by government negotiators with those of the CPP, NPA, and National Democratic Front during their talks in Norway and the Netherlands. These agreements were in two broad areas - socio-economic and political-constitutional.

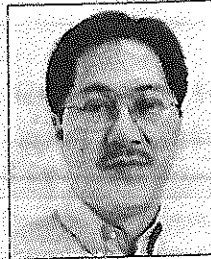
Even as the AFP carries out its new mandate from President Duterte to mount a military campaign against the NPA, the government may also begin a parallel effort to develop the areas where the NPA is now active and improve the lives of the people there. Perhaps General Año, who is due to be appointed secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) after he retires as AFP chief on October 26, can help carry on this new Duterte program in his new civilian position.

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## GOTCHA JARIUS BONDOC



### They'll revert to bombing, kidnapping, extortion

Retaking Marawi from Islamic State-linked jihadists was just a matter of time for state forces. No militia, even if richly provisioned at the start, would withstand the onslaught of a professional army. Superiority in materiel and training routed the combined Maute and Abu Sayyaf that had laid siege to the Lanao del Sur capitol for five months. Same with their fellow-terrorists in Mosul, Iraq, in July and Raqqa, Syria, last week.

IS remnants in the Middle East and Southeast Asia must have assessed their defeats by now. Even if they had reigned for three years at the edges of Iraq-Syria, controlling territory was never to work. Reestablishing the caliphates of old will only fail in an ever secular modern world.

Still there are deep ethnic and economic resentments for Islamist misinterpretation to feed on. Muslim youth radicalization

worldwide will continue, analysts believe. Mindanao will be no exception. On the Internet are articles, sites, and blogs to entice Muslim millennials to war.

Jihadists will revert to the old abductions, bombings, and extortion. Such asymmetrical warfare is expected, says Armed Forces spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

That is why security officials opt to keep martial law in Mindanao. Militants remain armed and dangerous: the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Maguindanao; Ansar al-Khalifa Philippines in South Cotabato and Sarangani; and Abu Sayyaf originals in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. Fierce fighting is ongoing in the latter three western provinces to wipe out terrorists who make a fortune from kidnapping and piracy.

Martial law allows warrant-less searches and arrests. Thus were nabbed the father of the Maute terrorist-brothers in an army checkpoint en route to Marawi early in the siege. Thus too were interdicted child-soldier reinforcements to Marawi from faraway Sarangani. Warnings of house-to-house searches, Padilla recounts, convinced certain political clans in towns around Marawi to surrender hundreds of long arms unauthorized for civilian licensing. Neutralized as well were narco-politicians believed to have provided arms and cash to the Marawi militants.

Martial law cannot be forever, though. Sooner or later the army would have to pull out. Counter-

**Islamist terrorists surely have assessed by now that territorial control is unworkable – so back to their old tactics.**

terrorism in Mindanao would have to become a community endeavor. By this, Padilla means civilian vigilance. Citizens must be watchful about arms stockpiling and strangers' movements. So used were Marawi folk to mobilizations of politicians' private armies that they paid no heed to the Maute arms, ammo, and provisions buildup before the assault last May. Had the military been properly informed, the siege could have been nipped in the bud.

Gun control and prevention of "rido" eventually must return to police hands. The national police must make the political warlords register to keep their allowable firearms at home. No firearms should be displayed. Strict enforcement would convince them that no politician or clan is being favored.

Not only Marawi but the whole of Mindanao needs social and physical rebuilding. Infrastructures are

needed to equalize opportunities for Muslim and Christian communities alike. So basic are waterworks and sewerage, roads, ports, electricity, telecoms, markets, and irrigation. Thence there would be transportation, trade, and tourism from which all could benefit. Economic and social departments must ensure agricultural support, employment, market links, health, sanitation, and housing assistance.

Crucial to containing radicalization is education. This cannot be left alone to schools. Instruction in math, sciences, and humanities widens perspectives. Madrasahs and Muslim clerics can help straighten out violent interpretations of the Koran. Beyond classrooms, however, people need to feel equal in benefiting from infrastructures and services. Discrimination breeds hatred and violence.

As a soldier, Padilla knows only too well that there's still a Moro separatist problem to solve. A cease-fire exists only momentarily. Political solutions beyond martial law are awaited, starting with expanded autonomy in terms of power and territory. Violence cannot go on as a livelihood.

\* \* \*

Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jarius-Bondoc/1376602159218459>, or The STAR website <http://www.philstar.com/author/Jarius%20Bondoc/GOTCHA>



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# Job well done, for now

**T**he images of soldiers returning home from the five-month duty in Marawi City which is considered among the bloodiest engagement of the military in terms of lives lost, brought a sense of a return to normalcy for the whole country and hope for rebuilding lives among residents of the devastated city.

First to leave Marawi City was the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion which was also the first military group that responded to the May 23 Islamic State (IS)-inspired siege of Marawi City.

The start of the conflict resulted in several thoughts of uncertainties, including the IS preparing to invade Manila or if not, urban centers were to be subjected to attacks as the wave of terrorism spreads.

None happened 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.

The pro-IS Maute group led by brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute and the Abu Sayyaf Group led by Isnilon Hapilon joined forces to launch a bold campaign to occupy Marawi City and install an IS caliphate in Southeast Asia led by Hapilon.

The bandits occupied major thoroughfares in Marawi City and tried to seize government facilities including a public hospital, schools and churches.

Rody who was in Russia when the attack happened said he would be harsh after imposing martial rule.

Congress extended the declaration of Rody until the end of this year.



Rody then later exposed the IS incursion for what it really was, which is a joint effort of groups whose former lucrative businesses he disrupted as a result of the war on drugs.

A new drug matrix he showed provided the connections among leaders of the Maute group and the other militants which pledged allegiance to the IS and narcotics syndicates that heavily funded the Marawi operations.

Rody had cited the existence of a narco-state when he took over the reins of government.

The campaign pitch of Rody that voters held on to, was that he will eradicate the crime wave and the drugs menace in six months after he is elected President.

Apparently the drug syndicates found that Rody was a different political animal when it comes to his determination to eradicate the drugs problem.

The new chart that Rody bared showed persons involved in the flow of drugs money "in Marawi and the entire Mindanao."

He said the network showed that Mindanao and the Visayas almost fell into the hands of drugs syndicates while Luzon "remains a volatile area."

Rody stated recently that the country had turned into a narco-state due to neglect from the past administration.

Both the drugs and terror problems were conveniently swept under the rug by the administration of Noynoy resulting in both problems escalating and blowing up during Rody's watch.

There were suspicions that the previous administration even exploited the problems to their benefit which is the subject of investigations being conducted and had resulted in the detention of Sen. Leila de Lima on drug trafficking charges.

De Lima was charged with running the National Bilibid Prison drugs trade to mainly raise campaign funds for the 2016 national elections.

Rody has won the battle for Marawi City but he knows that it would not be the end of the vicious campaign to destabilize his administration through whatever means.

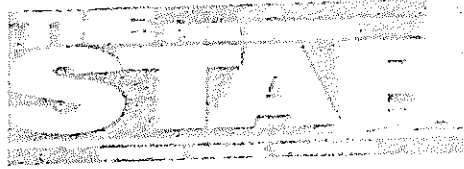
It would be best for Rody to again learn from the lessons of former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada who many political analysts notice a striking parallelism in the way the popularly elected president is again being the target of an ouster conspiracy.

Erap's ouster was launched immediately after he won a decisive victory after launching an all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

In July, 2000 Camp Abubakar, the main MILF stronghold fell and Erap declared victory over the MILF.

Estrada was ousted from the presidency January 20, 2001.

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## Terrorist accomplices

The Armed Forces of the Philippines counts at least 919 terrorists killed in five months of fighting in Marawi City. The AFP backed by the Philippine National Police, meanwhile, lost at least 165 personnel.

Government forces continue to hunt down the remnants of the terrorists. But Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen weren't the only ones responsible for the deaths of government forces as well as civilians caught in the crossfire. Local officials and residents who supported the terrorists, from the planning of the siege to the final days when the gunmen were trying to leave Marawi, must also be held to account for the carnage and the destruction of a once bustling city.

The terrorists could not have taken on the AFP and elite commandos of the PNP for five months without an extensive supply network for

### EDITORIAL

their weaponry, food, water and the other basic necessities of life. They needed a large amount of funding, some of which would have passed through banking channels and been managed by someone knowledgeable in finance.

Those who harbor terrorists and engage in terrorist financing are as dangerous as the ones who pull the trigger or set off bombs. These supporters are accomplices to terrorism and mass murder, and they can also be liable for money laundering. The government must apply the laws penalizing such activities.

Hunting down these supporters must be conducted with the same zeal that has been applied in sweeping Marawi of armed Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen. The threat that terrorist supporters pose also deserves to be neutralized.

13 October 2017

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING METROPOLIS

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## POLI-VIEWS

# The importance of ROTC



By FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO

**W**HILE opinions vary on the issue of the re-inclusion of mandatory Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in the tertiary education curriculum of colleges and universities in the Philippines, it would also be fit perhaps to look deeper into and appreciate the value of instilling discipline and patriotism through military training among young Filipinos. For after all, it is upon their hands that we will pass on the steering wheel of this nation.

ROTC was made optional and voluntary in 2002 with the enactment of the National Service Training Program, which introduced Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS) and Literacy Training Service (LTS) as alternatives for ROTC. Since then, a steady decline in the enrollment in ROTC became very evident, and so was the obvious deterioration of young Filipinos' interest in military service. As national peace and order continues to be challenged from several corners, ROTC might perhaps be a viable preemptive tool.

Effective implementation of ROTC is the key to eliminating resistance to the program's revival. Violation of students' rights, bullying, and corruption among others can be prevented if the government,

through higher education institutions, will provide clear cut policies and effectual modules for teaching the military training program. If guidelines are in place, and limitations and accountabilities are set, then there can be no reason for students to fear enrolling themselves in ROTC. Students, as well as their parents, only need to understand and be assured that the discipline and patriotism being instilled through ROTC project beyond their lives as college students and are building blocks upon which the new breed of Filipino leaders are molded and honed.

According to Article II, Section 4, of the Philippine Constitution: "The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military, or civil service." How can we be able to harness this provision of the constitution in times of crises when ROTC is only optional under the National Service Training Program?

I have personally witnessed how the Reserved Officers Training Corps is being given highest value in the United States. While studying at the Tulane University Law School in New

Orleans, Louisiana, I was able to observe ROTC cadets attend school every day wearing their uniforms as US Marines, Airforce, Army, or Navy. These young people are being educated by the government as scholars and will become part of their uniformed services after their graduation.

I think the following are only four of the many reasons why the Reserved Officers Training Corps should be part of our tertiary education curriculum.

1. It is a potent tool in instilling discipline and nationalism among young Filipinos.
2. Disaster resiliency and preparedness can be made part of the ROTC
3. ROTC cadets may also be a pool from which national athletes may be selected to represent the country in various sports events.
4. Since the Universal Free College Education is already in effect, the ROTC program can be part of said scholarship system.

We need not underscore the primordial role of a disciplined, educated, and patriotic Filipino youth in our quest for sustainable development and lasting peace. I am certain that such can be achieved through the implementation of an effective and transformative military service training.

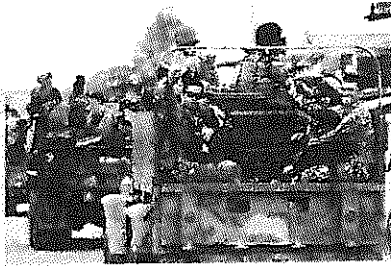
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# ONLINE NEWS

23 October 2017

## Marawi soldiers to get Hong kong trip promised by Duterte: Andanar

ABS-CBN News



Members of the Philippine Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT) wave at residents and motorists while in a military truck as they travel their way back from their 5-month combat duty against pro-Islamic State militant groups, a few days after President Rodrigo Duterte announced the Liberation of Marawi, Saturday. *Romeo Ranoco. Reuters*

MANILA - Soldiers who fought to liberate Marawi from Islamic State-linked terrorists can look forward to a vacation in Hong Kong as promised by President Rodrigo Duterte, an aide said Sunday.

"Matutuloy iyun, wala lang pang petsa na ibinibigay sa atin ang ating Pangulo," Presidential Communication Secretary Martin Andanar told DZMM. Duterte has promised to shoulder the hotel accomodation and pocket money of the troops, especially women soldiers, said Andanar.

The private sector would be helping Duterte to fulfill his promise, said Majoy Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson of the Armed Forces.

"Isang airline company ang siyang magbibigay ng libreng ticket at ilang private individuals po na nagbibigay ng ano pa mang dagdag sa ibibigay na pambaon po ng ating mahal na Pangulo," Padilla said in a separate DZMM interview.

Duterte last week said Marawi has been liberated from terrorist influence, 5 months after Islamic State-linked militants stormed the southern city.

The military has commenced a gradual pullout of troops from the battle zone. Commandos are set to undergo stress debriefing and re-training, said Padilla.

<http://news.abs-cbn.com>

# Military: All hostages rescued from Maute terrorists

By Yvette Morales, CNN Philippines

Updated 15:26 PM PHT Sun, October 22, 2017



*File photo*

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 22)** — The last 20 hostages of the Maute group have been rescued as of Sunday, according to the military.

Joint Task Force Ranao Deputy Commander Col. Romeo Brawner, in a press briefing, said there are 30 remaining fighters, including the wives of Maute terrorists fighting alongside their husbands, in the basement of a building.

"(These are the ones) who decided to just fight it out because they believe that if they die here, they will go to heaven," Brawner said.

Only five foreign terrorists remain with the Maute, although the military is unable to confirm if they are still alive.

The military said they are urging the terrorists to surrender, assuring them they will be treated humanely if they decide to do so.

Brawner said the military will try to finish the firefight until midnight, which means either the military kills all the remaining Mautes, or they surrender.

As of Sunday, the 153rd day of the Marawi crisis, 919 terrorists have been killed, including its leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.

Meanwhile, 1,780 hostages have been rescued, while 165 government forces have been killed.

## Start of rehabilitation

Barangay officials have also started on Sunday profiling the first batch of evacuees who will return to their homes in Marawi.

"We will make sure non-residents will not be able to join them to create havoc or create a scenario in Marawi City," Brawner said.

Brawner said although they have reopened nine barangays, they want to make sure that basic services, like electricity, water, and stores, are available before they allow the residents to go back.

The military said the target date for the return of Marawi residents whose houses were not affected by the conflict was set on October 25 or 26.

Temporary shelters will be provided for thousands others whose houses have been completely destroyed.

The National Housing Authority said it will initially build about 1,500 temporary shelters, or pre-fabricated houses that will take about only two days to construct.

Rehabilitation has also started in Marawi, five days after President Rodrigo Duterte announced the liberation of the city from terrorists.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Sunday post-conflict needs assessment teams, composed of 200 people from various agencies, have been deployed to assess damage and estimate the cost of rehabilitation, which can take around one to two weeks.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the military's engineering brigade have also started to clear roads and remove debris.

The DPWH is allocating close to 200 million pesos to set up the road network, drainage system, and other basic utilities.

<http://cnnphilippines.com>