

*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

24 October 2017

**Tuesday**

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

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


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24 October 2017

# INQUIRER

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 24, 2017 | TUESDAY**

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 4:00 PM - October 23, 2017)**

	<b>LAOAG CITY</b> 24 - 31 °C	<b>TUGUEGARAO CITY</b> 23 - 32 °C	<b>SUNRISE</b> 5:49 AM	<b>SUNSET</b> 5:31 PM
	<b>BAGUIO CITY</b> 16 - 22 °C		<b>MOONRISE</b> 9:16 AM	<b>MOONSET</b> 8:59 PM
	<b>SBMA/CLARK</b> 25 - 32 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY CITY</b> 18 - 29 °C	<b>NEW MOON</b> OCT 20 5:15 AM	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> OCT 28 5:22 AM
	<b>METRO MANILA</b> 25 - 31 °C	<b>LEGAZPI CITY</b> 24 - 31 °C	<b>LOW TIDE</b> 7:36 AM <b>HIGH TIDE</b> 2:44 PM <small>MANILA SOUTH HARBOR</small>	
	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY</b> 25 - 31 °C	<b>TACLOBAN CITY</b> 24 - 31 °C	<b>LOW TIDE</b> 0:05 Meter <b>HIGH TIDE</b> 0.49 Meter	
	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> 24 - 29 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b> 24 - 30 °C	Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain/showers and/or thunderstorms	
	<b>ZAMBOANGA CITY</b> 24 - 31 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b> 23 - 33 °C	Cloudy skies with rain/showers and/or thunderstorms	
	<b>METRO DAVAO</b> 25 - 33 °C			

	OCT 23	OCT 24	OCT 25	OCT 26
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	19 - 29 °C	19 - 29 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	23 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17 - 22 °C	16 - 22 °C	24 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 32 °C

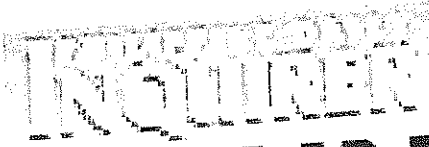
**DZRH NEWS TELEVISION**

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

**PILIPINAS ID**

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

24 October 2017



# ALL QUIET IN MARAWI; 42 TERRORISTS DEAD

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

Defense and military officials on Monday declared fighting in Marawi was over after a 154-day war against IS-inspired terrorists that killed more than 1,000 people and reduced much of the city to rubble. **AG**

## FROM A1

By the Inquirer Staff

CLARK FREEPORT—The government on Monday declared an end to fierce urban warfare in Marawi after troops killed the last pro-Islamic State (IS) terrorists who seized the city five months ago to establish an enclave of the Middle East-based jihadi group in Southeast Asia.

"We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters on the sidelines of the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Defense Ministers Meeting in Clark Field, Pampanga province.

He said government troops prevailed in the battle for control of a building where the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists made their last stand.

Troops recovered 42 bodies of the last group of terrorists, he said.

### 2 buildings, 1 mosque

Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also said 42 bodies were found—not in one but two buildings and a mosque.

The military said on Sunday that a last group of about 30 terrorists, their wives and five foreign fighters were making a last stand in a two-story building next to Lanao Lake and that troops were launching an assault to bring the fighting to an end.

The Associated Press reported on Monday that two security officials, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to make public the latest developments in Marawi, had disclosed that troops found the bodies after capturing the building.

It was unclear how the terrorists found in the building

ICE OF THE  
died, but it was possible some committed suicide after they were cornered by troops, said one of the officials.

It was also possible that a few terrorists may still be hiding.

Reuters reported that artillery and automatic gunfire were still heard on Monday morning and its reporters saw flames behind a mosque.

Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the military, confirmed there was still gunfire but said there were "no more terrorists" and the troops' last battles were with an enemy decimated by the loss of its leadership.

"They were formless, they had no place to run," he said.

Lorenzana said the identities of the final 42 bodies had not been determined and some were beyond recognition.

#### 'They were finished'

"Those are the last group of stragglers of Mautes and they were caught in one building so there was a firefight, so they were finished," Lorenzana said.

He said the last hostages the terrorists had been holding were recovered earlier.

"All hostages have been recovered. There are no more militants inside Marawi City," he said.

When asked if foreign fighters were among those killed, Lorenzana said: "We have not yet determined that."

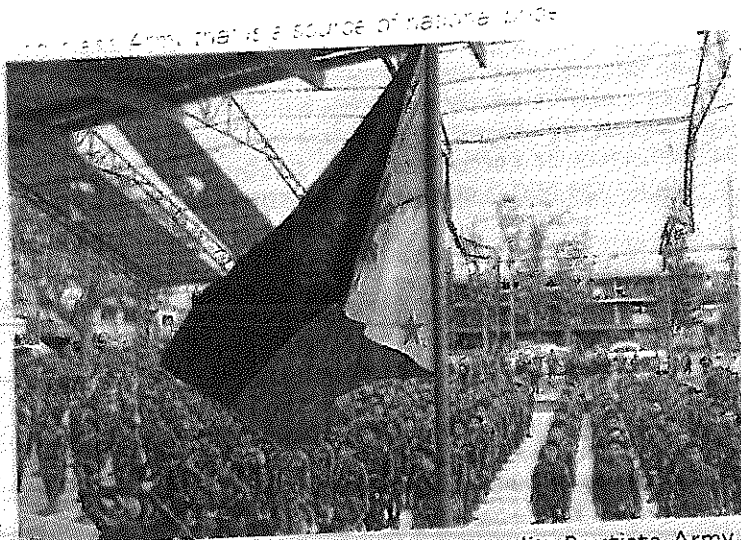
He thanked the United States for providing technical intelligence that enabled the Philippine military to defeat the terrorists and regain control of Marawi.

"The US gave us images of the enemies," he said.

Lorenzana also thanked China for donating sniper rifles, which were used in the fight against the terrorists.

Malacañang commended the military for retaking Marawi from the terrorists.

Presidential spokesperson



GRADUATION RITES Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, Army chief, leads graduation ceremonies for Special Forces and Scout Rangers who completed their test mission to free Marawi City from terrorist influence. —RICHEL V. UMEL

Ernesto Abella called for unity among Filipinos as the rebuilding of Marawi began following the city's liberation from the terrorists.

"The fighting in Marawi has ended. Since the rebellion started 154 days ago, almost a thousand terrorists have been killed, including [their] leaders Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute, Mahmud Ahmad, among others," Abella said in a statement.

"We have successfully concluded what has been, so far, the most serious threat of violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and Southeast Asia," he added.

Lorenzana said the military campaign against the terrorists in Marawi was the Philippines' contribution to maintaining peace in Southeast Asia.

#### Fighting terrorism

"While we submit that these tactical and strategic gains will not annihilate the ideology completely, we declare that this achievement is clear manifestation of how our regional cooperation can lead to decisive advance against the proliferation of terrorism in this part of the

world," he said.

Fighting terrorism is high on the agenda of the Asean defense ministers' meeting.

As the meeting opened, the head of the Brunei delegation expressed condolences for the loss of lives in Marawi but congratulated the Philippines for being able to liberate the city.

Hundreds of terrorists from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups, waving IS group-style black flags and backed by foreign fighters, laid siege to Marawi on May 23 to carve out an IS province in the region.

The disastrous uprising, which has displaced hundreds of thousands of Marawi residents, erupted as the Philippines was hosting annual summit meetings of Asean this year, along with the 10-nation bloc's Asian and Western counterparts, including the United States and Australia.

The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance aircraft and drones to help the Philippine military rout the Marawi terrorists.

Last week, government troops killed the last two leaders of the siege—Hapilon, an

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

Abu Sayyaf commander said to be the IS "emir," or leader, in Southeast Asia and on whose head the United States had put a \$5-million bounty, and Maute, one of two brothers who led the Maute terrorist clan of Lanao del Sur province.

Their bodies had been recovered and identified. DNA tests done in the United States on the request of the Philippine military confirmed the death of Hapilon.

The body of Mahmud, a top Malaysian militant believed to have bankrolled the siege of Marawi, has not been recovered.

Following their deaths, President Duterte traveled to Marawi and declared the city had been "liberated from terrorists influence" and said the rehabilitation of the city had begun.

### Overnight battle

But fighting continued up to Monday when the last group of terrorists refused to surrender.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the military task force battling the terrorists, told reporters on Monday that the bodies of the terrorists were to be taken out of the building where they had made their last stand.

He said all but two of the terrorists inside the building were killed on Sunday night.

The last two remaining terrorists were killed in the building's basement at dawn on Monday, he said.

The final assault consisted of close-quarter combat and artillery attacks, he added.

Padilla said the troops tried to convince the remaining terrorists to surrender, but they refused.

Two of those killed were wives of fighters, he said. —WITH

REPORTS FROM TONETTE OREJAS, PHILIP C. TUBEZA, DIVINA SUSON, JEFFREY MAITEM, RICHEL UMEL, AP, AFP AND REUTERS INQ

## BY THE NUMBERS

**919**

Terrorists killed

**165**

Soldiers and policemen killed

**47**

Civilians who died during clashes

**1,780**

Hostages seized by the terrorists who were rescued

**1,700**

Estimated number of troops wounded

**353,921**

People displaced, according to a Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) report on Oct. 22

**69**

Evacuation centers in municipalities in the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur

**P518M**

Worth of relief assistance given to the affected families, according to the DSWD report

**P10B**

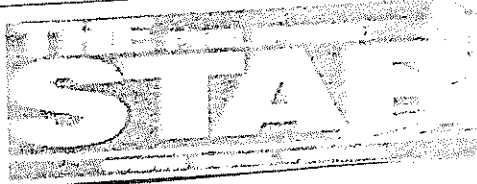
Estimated cost of rehabilitation and rebuilding, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana

**70 years**

Projected length of time before Marawi is restored to its condition before the conflict, according to architect and urban planner Felino Palafox Jr.

Compiled by Kathleen de Villa, Inquirer Research

SOURCES: Inquirer Archives, dromic.dswd.gov.ph



24 October 2017

# Combat terminated'

## *42 terrorists killed in final Marawi battle*

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

After five months of fighting and over 1,000 dead, the campaign to retake Marawi from militants professing allegiance to the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) is now officially over with 42 terrorists – including two women and five foreigners – killed in the final battle, the defense department and the military announced yesterday.

The campaign gave security forces their first taste of urban warfare, which often involved close-quarters combat. But in the end, even the fanaticism and the vast supply of weapons and munitions of the IS-linked Maute group and Abu Sayyaf turned out to be no match to the superior arms and discipline of govern-

ment forces, authorities said.

A victory for the militants would have transformed the country's only Islamic city into the capital of a "caliphate" the IS envisioned for Southeast Asia.

"The Philippine security forces, aided by the government and the massive support of the Filipino

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## Combat From Page 1

people, have nipped the budding infrastructure and dented terrorism in the Philippines," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana declared in a speech at the 11th ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting in Clark, Pampanga yesterday.

"In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share to maintaining global peace, stability and security," Lorenzana said.

At Malacañang, presidential spokesman Eduardo Abella said the end of hostilities calls for greater unity, considering the "enormous" and "challenging" task of rebuilding Marawi.

"The damage to Marawi's infrastructure and private properties and the displacement of thousands of residents require the government's unified and comprehensive effort; thus, we call on all our citizens to come together to move our country forward towards a peaceful, prosperous and secure future," Abella said in a statement.

"The defeat of the Daesh-inspired Maute group likewise underscores our singleness of purpose in the global war against terrorism," he added,

while praising troops - including the fallen ones - for their "courage, gallantry and sacrifice."

The government's declaring the Marawi crisis over came a week after members of the Army's elite Scout Rangers killed siege leaders Abu Sayyaf chief Isnilon Hapilon and the acknowledged head of the Maute group Omarkhayam Maute in a pre-dawn encounter on Oct. 16. Also killed days later was Malaysian doctor Mahmud bin Ahmad, the terrorists' alleged financier and possible successor as leader of the group.

The Marawi siege, according to authorities, began on May 23 when heavily armed militants assembled in the city to prevent authorities from serving a warrant of arrest on Hapilon. The militants eventually took over government and private buildings and prevented civilians from leaving, taking hostage many of them. The militants also killed Christians and unsympathetic Muslims. The siege prompted President Duterte to place the entire Mindanao under martial law.

"While we submit that these tactical and strategic gains will not annihilate the ideology completely, we declare that this achievement is clear manifesta-

tion of how our regional cooperation can lead to a decisive advance against the proliferation of terrorism in this part of the world," Lorenzana said.

The DND chief is the designated administrator of martial law in Mindanao.

"We hope that this operational achievement in Marawi in the Philippines will be the catalyst that shall bring to the fore future cooperations and partnerships not only against terrorism but also those that shall defeat other regional and global security threats," he added.

### 'Last breath'

Also at the ASEAN forum, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said 42 terrorists "fought to the last breath" in the last days of the campaign to liberate Marawi.

The dead found inside the last buildings to be cleared included two women believed to be the wives of combatants who had chosen to take a last stand against advancing government troops. One of the two buildings was a mosque.

"We gave a chance for these militants and terrorists to surrender but they fought to the last breath so *wala tayong magagawa* (we can't do anything)," Año said.

He said none of the militants could have escaped the final

assault as all the hostages had been rescued.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said the remains were those of "stragglers" killed in clashes last Sunday. While the last 10 hostages were rescued, "some reportedly perished and were not able to survive the five months ordeal under the Maute's custody," Galvez said.

Artillery and automatic gunfire were still heard yesterday and journalists said they saw flames behind a mosque.

Abella said the government had prevailed against "the most serious threat of violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia."

The rebel occupation stunned a military inexperienced in urban combat and stoked wider concerns that IS loyalists have gained influence among local Muslims and have ambitions to use Mindanao as a base for operations in Southeast Asia.

Those fears were compounded by the organization of the militant alliance and its ability to recruit young fighters, lure foreign radicals, stockpile huge amounts of arms and endure 154 days of ground offensive and air strikes.

The authorities said 920 militants, 165 troops and police and at least 45 civilians were killed in the conflict, which displaced

more than 300,000 people.

The center of the picturesque lakeside town is now in ruins due to heavy shelling and aerial bombing.

The militants had been able to defy the relentless bombing raids that destroyed entire neighborhoods by sheltering in basements and traveling through tunnels, according to the military.

### Lurking 'stragglers'

The deputy task force commander in Marawi, Col. Romeo Brawner, said troops would secure the city from militant "stragglers" who might still be alive.

"If we find them and they will attack our soldiers or even the civilians, then we will have to defend ourselves," he told reporters.

Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla confirmed there was still gunfire ongoing, but there were "no more terrorists" and the Army's last battles were with an enemy decimated by the loss of its leadership.

Duterte had declared Marawi City liberated six days ago, even though fighting was not actually over. On Sunday, he said it was important to be vigilant because no country could escape IS's "clutches of evil."

"I'm not trying to scare you, but let's just be prepared for any event," he said.

Lorenzana said six battalions of troops would remain in Marawi and though the battle had been won, the enemy's radical ideology had not been completely annihilated.

He thanked the United States, Australia, Singapore and China for providing weaponry and technical support, including surveillance aircraft, and said the conflict would be a catalyst for closer international cooperation against extremism.

The government estimates the rebuilding of the heart of Marawi could cost in excess of \$1 billion.

Local officials, meanwhile, expressed gratitude to the military and the Philippine National Police (PNP) for liberating Marawi.

"We are thankful to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police for restoring normalcy in Marawi City," Zia Alonto Adiong of the 24-member Regional Assembly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said on Monday.

Adiong, spokesman for the Lanao del Sur provincial

crisis management committee, said the office of Gov. Soraya Alonto-Adiong can now maximize its post-conflict humanitarian missions in Marawi City.

"We are also grateful to the non-military organizations and government line agencies helping our people rise from the vestiges of an armed conflict that hurt us to the core," Adiong said.

Among those that responded to the call for help were the Humanitarian Emergency Assistance and Response Team of the ARMM government, United Nations-affiliated groups and Gawad Kalinga, among others.

### People relieved

Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra, chairman of the city peace and order council, said the liberation of Marawi gave much relief to the people in barangays under his jurisdiction.

ARMM Vice Gov. Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman, concurrent social welfare secretary of the autonomous region, said he was deeply touched by the sacrifices of the Army, the Marines and the police in driving away Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists from Marawi City.

Meanwhile in Maguindanao, the Army has promoted three new generals to positions that would enable them to work closely with local officials in preventing the spread of extremism in the region.

Gens. Diosdado Carreon of the 601st Brigade, Jesus Sarsagat of the 603rd Brigade and Bismark Soliba of the 1st Mechanized Brigade were given promotion honors on Friday by the Army's 6th Infantry Division at Camp Siongco in Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao.

The traditional "donning of ranks" on the three new generals was led by Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega of 6th ID and Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of the Philippine Army.

"They shall work closely with the mayors and provincial governors. They will also tap the help of academe, the Muslim and Christian religious communities to achieve their peace objectives," Dela Vega said.

Soliba, the most senior among the three new Army generals in central Mindanao, graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1985. Carreon and Sarsagat belonged to PMA class '87 and '88, respectively.

— With Alexis Romero, Roel Pareño, Gilbert Bayoran, John Unson, Reuters, AFP

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24 October 2017

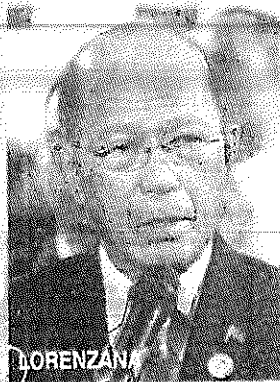
**tribune**

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**44 BODIES OF TERRORISTS RETRIEVED**

# Lorenzana: War over, IS crushed

The war for Marawi City is over and the Islamic State (IS) infrastructure in the Philippines was nipped in the bud, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana declared yesterday as he announced the end of military operations in the Islamic city.



LORENZANA

Lorenzana's message came exactly five months after the militant Maute group occupied Marawi City last May 23 in an attempt to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate for the terror group.

The conflict, which claimed more than 1,100 lives, ended following a final battle inside a mosque, AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said.

Año said troops recovered 44 more bodies of terrorists and their wives from a building that served as the last refuge of the Maute-IS stragglers that put up the last resistance in Marawi.

"We gave a chance for these militants and terrorists to surrender but they fought to the last breath," said Año.

"We accounted for all foreign terrorists...so we are very confident that no one escaped," he added.

The conclusion of the conflict ended immediate fears that IS would establish a Southeast Asian base in the southern city of Marawi. But concerns remained about its longer-term intentions and capabilities for the region.

"We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi," declared Lorenzana during the gathering of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) defense ministers in Clark Air Base.

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From page 1

The Armed Forces and the police, headed by its government and massive support of the Filipino people, have nipped the budding infrastructure and defeated terrorism in the Philippines," he added.

There are no more militants inside Marawi," said Lorenzana. Since Friday, government troops have started pulling out from Marawi City after President Duterte last Tuesday declared its liberation from the hands of the terrorists.

Government forces killed Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the IS in Southeast Asia, Malaysian Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad, the financier of the Marawi City siege, and the dreaded Maute brothers, namely, Abdullah, Madie, Otto and Omardakayan.

Lorenzana stressed that the defeat of the IS-inspired terrorists in Marawi City did not only thwart the expansion of radical extremism in southern Philippines but also in the region.

"In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share to maintaining global peace, stability and security," said Lorenzana.

The defense chief cited the support and assistance extended to the Philippine security forces by the United States, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore and China.

The US and Australia actively assisted in intelligence gathering by deploying spy planes while

China sent rifles and ammunition.

"We hope that this operational achievement in Marawi will be the catalyst that shall bring to the fore future cooperation and partnerships not only against terrorism but also those that shall defeat other regional and global security threats," Lorenzana said.

**IS horror terminated**

Hundreds of local and foreign gunmen who had pledged allegiance to IS rampaged through Marawi, the principal Islamic city in the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23. They then took over parts of the city using civilians as human shields.

An ensuing US-backed military campaign claimed the lives of at least 920 militants, 165 soldiers and 47 civilians, according to the military.

More than 400,000 residents were displaced as near-daily air strikes and intense ground combat left large parts of the city in ruins.

"The presence of the Maute-ISIS was confined to two buildings: one of them a mosque," Año said last Monday as he explained the situation in Marawi following Duterte's liberation proclamation.

"That is where the last fighting occurred and that is the place where we rescued (an) additional 20 hostages

The militants had been able to defy the relentless bombing raids that destroyed entire neighborhoods by sheltering in basements and travelling through tunnels, according to the military.

The military had also said its opponents hid inside mosques, and that soldiers had been ordered not to bomb or fire artillery at such buildings.

The Muslim minority regards

Mindanao as its ancestral homeland

Muslim rebels have been battling in Mindanao since the 1970s for independence or autonomy, with that conflict claiming at least 120,000 lives.

The nation's biggest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is in talks with the government to end the rebellion, and its leaders regularly denounce IS.

But there are more extreme groups with no interest in peace, some of which were originally part of the MILF.

Duterte imposed martial law across Mindanao immediately after the Marawi fighting erupted, saying it was needed to contain IS's influence spreading throughout the region.

When asked on Monday whether martial law would be lifted, Lorenzana said a decision had not yet been made.

**RP's anti-terror contribution**

Presidential spokesman Abella, in a statement, said the government's victory over the bandits composed of radical Islamists is the country's contribution to the international community's united effort to marginalize the IS movement.

"The fighting in Marawi has ended. Since the rebellion started 154 days ago, almost a thousand terrorists have been killed, including its leaders Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute, Mahmud Ahmad, among others," Abella said.

"We have successfully concluded what has been, so far, the most serious threat of violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in Southeast

Asia," he added.

"The defeat of the Daesh (IS)-inspired Maute Group likewise underscores our singleness of purpose in the global war against terrorism," he said.

Abella added the government is now focused on rehabilitating the city which was heavily damaged as a result of heavy exchanges of fire between state security forces and the Islamist bandits.

"The damage to Marawi's infrastructure and private properties and the displacement of thousands of residents require the government's unified and comprehensive effort; thus, we call on all our citizens to come together to move our country forward towards a peaceful, prosperous and secure future," he added.

Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Deputy Administrator Assistant Secretary Kristoffer James Purisima, in a Palace briefing, said that government is preparing security measures to prevent possible Islamist infiltration among the internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Purisima, who has been designated as spokesman for Task Force Bangon Marawi, said that all concerned government agencies are making it sure that IDPs that will be supported by government are bona fide residents of Marawi and are not in anyway affiliated to any suspicious elements.

"All concerned government agencies are making it sure that everybody returning to Marawi are legitimate residents," Purisima said.

"The government wants to make it sure that we are treating

them correctly," he added.

Purisima said that there is a vast pool of resources that has committed help to the Philippine government apart from the EU.

"I don't think rejecting grants from the EU will be a setback," Purisima said.

Purisima stressed that apart from EU, "there are other donors. There are other possible donors."

"We've been receiving pledges of support and we've been receiving support from many other sectors," he emphasized.

Senator Win Gatchalian, meanwhile, vowed to fight for more rehabilitation funds in the 2018 national budget for Marawi City when Congress resumes its deliberations on the general appropriations funds next month.

"The next battle, the rehabilitation of Marawi City, can only be won through the united efforts of the government and private sector. We must all work hand-in-hand in rebuild Marawi City from the ashes jumpstarting its rebirth as a robust regional hub for education, culture and commerce," he said.

"To accomplish this, we must immediately inject public funds into the local economy," the senator said in a text message to reporters.

Opposition Sen. Bam Aquino expressed willingness to work with the Duterte administration in rising Marawi City from the ruins of war.

"We fully support efforts to rehabilitate Marawi City and to bring normalcy and prosperity into the lives of Maranao families," he said.

"Our Armed Forces deserve our utmost praise and gratitude

for this victory and for sacrificing their lives to bring peace to our country," he said.

#### Mattis praises victory vs IS

US Defense Secretary James Mattis also praised the Philippines for its successes against battling Islamic State supporters, as he began an Asian trip aimed at reaffirming American support for regional allies.

Mattis echoed Mr. Duterte's statement last week that Filipino forces had "liberated" the southern city of Marawi after five months of bitter urban fighting that had claimed more than 1,000 lives, even though battles have continued.

"One of the first things I'm going to do when I get there is commend the Philippine military for liberating Marawi from the terrorists," Mattis told reporters on the flight to the Philippines, according to an official transcript.

"It was a very tough fight as you know in southern Mindanao (the local region). And I think the Philippine military sends a very strong message to the terrorists."

Mattis flew to the Philippines to attend a meeting hosted by Southeast Asian defense ministers at the former American military base of Clark.

Defense ministers from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Russia are also scheduled to attend the two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) event.

"The US remains unambiguously committed to supporting ASEAN," Mattis said.

**Angie M. Rosales, AFP**

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# Marawi free, terror over

## 42 terrorists killed in final battle

By Francisco Tuyay, John Paolo Bencito and AFP

**T**HE battle for Marawi ended Monday after government troops wiped out the remaining terrorists in the city, bringing the country's most serious security crisis to close exactly five months after it started.

"We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters on the sidelines of a regional security meeting in Clark.

Lorenzana said there were no more Maute group terrorists after an intense final battle that left 42 of them dead.

"Those are the last group of stragglers of Mautes and they were caught in one building,"

he said.

Earlier, ground troops pulverized the last fortified position of the Maute fighters. The dead included two women, believed to be the wives of foreign terrorists, as well as three Malaysian or Indonesian fighters.

"Forty two cadavers were recovered... they were all fighting our troops so they were terrorists. No more hostages are left, as they were all

recovered a couple of days ago," Lorenzana said.

Both Lorenzana and Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said among those killed was Malaysian jihadist leader Amin Baco and four other foreign terrorists.

"In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have

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## Marawi...

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contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and [given] our share to maintaining global peace, stability and security," Lorenzana said.

Año described the remaining fighters as suicidal, fighting to the last despite exhaustion and starvation.

Over the last five months, 920 Maute rebels and dozens of foreign fighters were killed, while 165 soldiers, three policemen and 47 civilians lost their lives.

Government troops rescued 1,780 civilians, including the Catholic priest Chito Suganob, who was taken hostage by the terrorists.

Hundreds of gunmen who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State rampaged through Marawi on May 23, then took over parts of the city using civilians as human shields.

President Rodrigo Duterte

and security analysts said the militants were trying to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate in Marawi.

The ensuing military campaign to evict the militants claimed more than 1,000 lives, displaced 400,000 residents and left large parts of Marawi in ruins.

Duterte traveled to Marawi on Tuesday last week and declared the city had been liberated, shortly after top terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon, the Southeast Asian leader for IS, and Omar Maute were shot dead there.

Hapilon and Maute, along with hundreds of other militants, had been able to defy near-daily bombing raids that left much of the city in ruins by sheltering in basements and traveling through tunnels, according to the military.

Duterte warned Filipinos against the possible resurgence of terrorist threats, despite the victory in Marawi City.

"I'm not trying to scare you,

but let's just be prepared for any eventuality. Terrorism is everywhere," Duterte said in a speech at Bacolod City Sunday night.

"No nation has escaped from the clutches of the evil of the ISIS," Duterte said. "It's an ideology that is dedicated to just kill human beings and destroy...[their] heritage."

The five months of fierce urban warfare held by pro-Islamic State militants marked the country's biggest security crisis in years.

The military had earlier warned against lone wolf attacks that might arise despite the fall of Islamic State strongholds in Syria and in Southeast Asia—saying that threats posed by the Daesh still remain as the jihadist group and its networks were "increasingly becoming better."

The Daesh are known to use propaganda to recruit lone wolves.

The Department of Public Works and Highways

said Monday it has set aside P241.69 million for the construction of at least 300 temporary houses in Sagongsongan Village, Marawi City, for families affected by the war.

Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said the budget would cover the construction of houses, asphalt overlays and drainage work.

"The DPWH is now working on the transitory houses for Marawi siege evacuees," Villar said.

"The area being developed by DPWH in Barangay Sagongsongan, Marawi City, can accommodate 1,100 families. We are doing everything we can to finish it by November," Villar said.

"Currently, we are preparing a portion of the site where the National Housing Authority can build a total of 275 transitory houses," he said.

"Once the sites are developed, NHA may begin the construction stage," Villar

noted. **With Vito Barcelo**

24 October 2017

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Battle of Marawi ends

## Building where Maute militants made final stand captured; 42 bodies found

By AFP, AP, and FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**A** five-month battle against Islamic State (IS) supporters in Marawi City that claimed more than 1,000 lives has ended, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Monday.

"We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi," he told reporters on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meetings at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga. With the situation slowly returning to normal, the Philippine flag was raised at the Marawi City



## Battle of Marawi...



Hall for the first time since the siege started last May 23.

Mayor Majul Gamdamra led a short program following the flag-raising ceremony, saying "normal operations will start today (Monday) in preparation for the return of the internally displaced persons."

Lorenzana said there were no more militants, known locally as coming from the Maute Group, providing resistance following an intense final battle that led to the capture of a two-story building where pro-Islamic State group militants made their final stand after which 42 bodies were discovered.

"Those are the last group of stragglers of Mautes and they were caught in one building and so there was a firefight so they were finished," he said

"All terrorists, fighting troops. All hostages have been recovered."

"In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share to maintaining global peace, stability and security.

"We declare that this achievement is clear manifestation of how our regional cooperation will lead to a decisive advance against the proliferation of terrorism in this part of the world," Lorenzana added.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella commended the troops for neutralizing the Maute-led rebellion, saying the government could now shift to the massive rehabilitation of the war-torn city.

He said the defeat of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group also highlighted the government's "singleness of purpose" in the global war against terrorism.

It's possible that a few militants may still be hiding. It was not immediately clear how the dozens of suspected militants found in the two-story building near Lake Lanao died but it's possible some committed suicide after they were cornered by troops, said an official, who declined to be identified as he is not authorized to talk about the situation.

Hundreds of gunmen who had pledged allegiance to IS rampaged through Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23, then took over parts of the city using civilians as human shields.

President Duterte and security analysts said the militants were trying to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate in Marawi.

The ensuing US-backed military campaign to evict the militants claimed more than 1,000 lives, displaced 400,000 residents and left large parts of Marawi in ruins.

Duterte travelled to Marawi on Tuesday last week and declared the city had been "liberated," shortly after Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the designated "emir" in Southeast Asia of the Islamic State, was shot dead there.

But the continued fighting raised questions over whether the city was indeed free of the militants.

Hapilon, who was on the US government's list of most-wanted terrorists, was killed along with one of group's other leaders, Omarkhayam Maute, according to the military.

Hapilon and Maute, along with hundreds of other militants, had been able to defy near daily bombing raids that left much of the city in ruins by sheltering in basements and travelling through tunnels, according to the military.

The impoverished southern Philippines, home to many of the nation's Muslim minority, has for decades endured conflict.

The nation's biggest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is in talks with the government to end a rebellion that began in the 1970s and has claimed more than 120,00 lives.

But more extreme groups have emerged with no interest in forging a peace.

Some of those, including those led by Hapilon and Maute, had in recent years declared allegiance to IS. (With reports from Bonita L. Ermac and Genalyn D. Kabiling)



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**Malaya**

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# Marawi conflict over

**BY VICTOR REYES**

GOVERNMENT forces yesterday terminated combat operations against the Maute Group in Marawi City after killing 42 terrorists and gaining control of the mosque where the Maute remnants had made their last stand.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced the termination of the combat operations – five months after the Maute attacked the city on May 23 – at the sidelines of the Asean defense ministers meeting in Clark, Pampanga.

Lorenzana said security forces “have nipped the budding infrastructure and defeated terrorism in the Philippines.”

“In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share to maintaining global peace, stability, and security,” said Lorenzana.

The combat operations were terminated after President Duterte announced the liberation of Marawi on Tuesday last week, with officials saying the remaining terrorists no longer pose a serious threat.

“While we submit that these tactical and strategic gains will not annihilate the (terrorist) ideology completely, we declare that this achievement is a clear manifestation of how our regional cooperation can lead to a decisive advance against the proliferation of terrorism in this part of the world,” said Lorenzana.

Soldiers assaulted the Bandaraingin mosque, which had been occupied by the Maute stragglers, from Sunday to dawn yesterday. It was at the mosque where the 42 enemy bodies were found.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the 42 bodies included that of five foreign fighters and two women who are wives of Maute members.

.....  
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# 'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' GUNS FALL SILENT IN MARAWI

**CLARK, Pampanga:** After exactly five months of fighting, security officials on Monday declared combat operations in Marawi City over, saying there were no more Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute fighters in the main battle area.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana made the announcement at the sidelines of the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Defense Ministers' Meeting being hosted by the Philippines.

"After 154 days of the siege of Marawi by the Daesh-inspired Maute-ISIS group or after a week since the Commander in Chief's declaration of the liberation of Marawi, we now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi City," Lorenzana told reporters in a news conference, using other names for IS.

"The Philippine security forces, aided by its government and the massive support of the Filipino people, have nipped the budding infrastructure and defeated terrorism in the Philippines," he added.

►MarawiA8

# ■ MARAWI FROM A1 GUNS FALL

According to Lorenzana, the remains of 42 fighters were recently retrieved, including five foreign terrorists and two wives who fought alongside their Maute husbands.

On Sunday, Task Group Ranao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. disclosed that some wives of the Maute members in the battle zone had fought government forces.

Brawner also said there were five foreign terrorists on the side of the Maute group.

## No more hostages

As for hostages, Lorenzana said there were no civilians left inside the main battle zone, adding that troops had recovered the Maute hostages "a couple of days back," echoing Brawner who said on Sunday that 20 hostages were rescued in the middle of clearing and rescue operations.

Gen. Eduardo Año, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, said that after the President declared Marawi City free of terrorists last week, government forces conducted "mopping-up operations" and managed to confine the remaining Maute fighters to two buildings.

"In that fighting, we gave a chance for these militants and terrorists to surrender but they fought to the last breath so we could not do anything about it then," Año said.

## Malaysian terrorist among dead

Lorenzana also said that among the cadavers taken by the military was that of Amin Bacu, the Malaysian terrorist who allegedly led the Maute group in its final days.

"It's very possible that he was among those who were killed," he said.

Last week, a predawn assault by the elite forces of the Philippine Army's

Scout Rangers and Light Reaction Commands led to the deaths of the IS "emir" for Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon, and Maute group founder Omarkhayam Maute.

Three days after their deaths, the military killed Malaysia's most wanted terrorist and former professor Mahmud Ahmad.

Despite the termination of combat operations, the AFP said the clearing of bombs and unexploded ordnances were still ongoing. There will be no air strikes.

"[This is] just to be sure, but the fighting is over. There are no terrorists confronting our forces except that we need to make sure that each and every corner of the remaining battlefield has been dealt with," AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said told reporters.

## 'Thank the nations'

Lorenzana took the opportunity to thank allied countries, especially those in the Asean region, who supported the Philippine government in suppressing the Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

He cited the assistance provided by the United States, China, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore.

"We hope that this operational achievement in Marawi in the Philippines will be the catalyst that shall bring to the fore future cooperation and partnerships not only against terrorism but also those that shall defeat other regional and global security threats," Lorenzana said.

In June, the Australian Defense Forces deployed two AP-3C Orion aircraft for surveillance and intelligence assistance to Philippine troops.

The US also provided intelligence assistance by sending planes to Marawi City.

In July, the Chinese government turned over 3,000 sniper rifles, ammunition and others to President Duterte. In October, China gave 3,000 more rifles.

"Some of the [Chinese] rifles were used against the terrorists so they are in the frontline, while the Americans

also provided us images of the enemy by their very sophisticated technical intelligence gathering capability," Lorenzana said.

## Rehab to begin

The government can move quicker in the first phase of the rehabilitation now that the fighting is over, Office of Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Kristoffer Purisima said.

But he said the Marawi rehabilitation task force would wait for a go-signal from the military to enter the city. It is expected to finish a damage assessment by October 27.

"The national government will continue to work with the Marawi City local government unit to come up with harmonized rehabilitation and recovery efforts, prioritizing the return of [residents] to a better Marawi City," Purisima said during the Mindanao Hour news briefing in Malacañang.

He said site development for the construction of transitional shelters in Barangay Sagonsongan, Marawi City continues under the Department of Public Works and Highways. A private company had volunteered its expertise and resources to develop and deliver a water distribution system for the transitional shelter site.

"The company has already found suitable locations for deep wells in areas three, four and five," Purisima said.

On business and livelihood, Purisima said the Department of Trade and Industry would continue with the distribution of *sari-sari* store starter kits to selected beneficiaries.

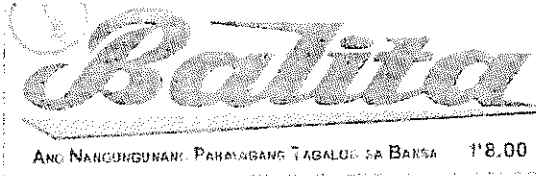
A total of 78,466 families or 359,680 people were displaced by the Marawi fighting, authorities said.

The Department of National Defense estimates the overall rehabilitation to cost at least P100 billion, and up to P150 billion.

The bulk of rehabilitation work will be implemented by the Task Force Bangon Marawi, composed of 42 government agencies.

**DEMPSEY REYES  
AND CATHERINE S. VALENTE**

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## HULING 42 TERORISTA SA MARAWI, PATAY NA Durog ang Maute-ISIS

NI FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Opisyal nang ipinahinto ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang lahat ng combat operations sa Marawi City simula kahapon, eksaktong limang buwan makaraang kubkubin ng mga teroristang Maute-ISIS ang siyudad.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni Lorenzana na 154 na araw ang nakalipas simula nang sumiklab ang bakbakan sa Marawi at isang linggo makaraang ideklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na malaya na ang lungsod mula sa kamay ng mga kaaway, "We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi City."

"The Philippine security forces aided by its government and the massive support of the Filipino people have ripped the budding infrastructure and defeated terrorism in the Philippines," sabi pa ni Lorenzana. "In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share

to maintaining global peace, stability and security."

### HULING 42

Ito ay makaraang marekober ng tropa ng gobyerno ang bangkay ng huling 42 terorista na nakorner sa isang gusali ilang oras matapos ang matinding engkuwentro sa militar.

"Yes, the last group of stragglers of Maute and they were caught in one building and so they were there was a fire fight," sinabi ni Lorenzana sa press briefing. "(About) 42 cadavers were recovered. They were all fighting our troops so they were terrorists."

Nang tanungin kung kabilang sa mga narekober na bangkay ang limang dayuhang terorista, sinabi ng kalihim na hindi pa nila ito aktuwal na natutukoy hanggang kahapon.

"We have not yet determined (that) because sometimes some of them were beyond recognition except for those identified by the hostages. We have no way of finding because if the foreign fighters are Malaysians and Indonesians they look exactly like us so it's very difficult to distinguish," aru Lorenzana.

Nang usisain kung ang pagkamatay ng huling grupo ng terorista ay nangangahulugang napatay na rin ang Malaysian na huling lider ng Maute na si Amin Bacu, sinabi ng kalihim na malaking posibilidad ito.

### 'WALANG NAKATAKAS'

"Yeah, very possible, that he

was among those who were killed," sabi ni Lorenzana. "No more. There are no more militants inside Marawi City."

Sinegundahan naman ito ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, Gen. Eduardo Año na nagsabing kabilang sa huling 42 terorista na napatay ang ilang dayuhan at dalawang babaeng asawa ng mga terorista, na nakipagbakbakan na rin.

"At that time mga five (foreign terrorists) na lang, they are part of the 42. So, we are very confident na walang nakatakas sa kanila," sabi ni Año.

Sa kabuuan, sinabi ng AFP na 962 terorista, 165 sundalo at pulis, at 47 sibilyan ang namatay sa limang-buwang bakbakan sa Marawi City.

### MARTIAL LAW

Kaughay nito, sinabini Lorenzana na aalamun muna ng gobyerno ang sitwasyon ng seguridad sa buong Mindanao bago magpasya kung aalisin na ang martial law sa rehiyon, pagkatapos ng krisis sa Marawi.

"We still, we will determine also the security situation in the whole of Mindanao and we will be making the recommendation for the president soon," anya.

Sa kanyang press statement, nagpasalamat din si Lorenzana sa mga bansang tumulong sa laban ng Pilipinas kontra sa mga terorista, gaya ng China, Amerika, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, at Singapore.

**DEATH TOLL:**  
**962 terorista**  
**165 sundalo, pulis**  
**47 sibilyan**

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# Marawi 'liberation' major blow to IS threat in Southeast Asia

By ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES @alyasjah and RENE ACOSTA @rcneacostaBM

**M**ALACAÑANG on Monday said the end of fighting in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, dealt a severe blow against the looming Islamic State (IS) threat in Southeast Asia.

After Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana declared Marawi City clear of fighting, Presidential Spokesman Ernesto C. Abella said the government has ended the strongest extremist threat, by far, in Southeast Asia. "The fighting in Marawi has ended. Since the rebellion started 154 days ago, almost a thousand terrorists have been killed, including its leaders Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute and Mahmud Ahmad, among others," Abella said.

"We have successfully concluded what has been, so far, the most serious threat of violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia. The defeat of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group, likewise, underscores our singleness of purpose in the global war against terrorism," Abella added.

The end of fighting in Marawi City came almost a week after President Duterte declared the besieged municipality liberated

from "terrorist influences."

The President instructed government officials to redirect all their efforts on the rehabilitation of Marawi City, which has suffered so much from five months of fighting between government troops and Maute Group terrorists.

"With the liberation of Marawi, our focus now shifts to the enormous and challenging task of rebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Islamic City. The damage to Marawi's infrastructure and private properties, and the displacement of thousands of residents require the government's unified and comprehensive effort; thus, we call on all our citizens to come together to move our country forward toward a peaceful, prosperous and secure future," Abella said.

"Finally, we commend government troops including the fallen, for their courage, gallantry and sacrifice. A snappy salute to all of you," the Palace official added.

The conflict in Marawi City has

4-11-15

claimed more than 1,000 lives, of which most were terrorists. Among those killed were Hapilon, the self-styled emir of the IS in Southeast Asia, and the Maute brothers, who was in charge of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group.

### End of combat operations

DEFENSE and military officials declared on Monday the end of the combat operations against members of the IS-Maute Group in Marawi City after soldiers have retaken a mosque, wherein another key terrorist leader and two women were among those killed.

Lorenzana announced the termination of the military operations against the terrorists during a press briefing at the sidelines of the Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Clark. He was joined by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo M. Año.

"We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi...the Armed Forces and the police, headed by its government and the massive support of the Filipinos, have nipped the budding infrastructure and defeated terrorism in the Philippines," Lorenzana said.

"In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share to maintaining global peace, stability and security," he added.

The completion of the operation, which came exactly five months after the IS-Maute Group took over the city on May 23, followed the recapture by soldiers of the last building held by the terrorists, wherein 42 people, including two women, were killed.

"Forty-two cadavers were recovered...they were all fighting our troops so they were terrorists," said Lorenzana, adding, "no more hostages have been left, as they have all been recovered a couple of days back."

According to Año, the last building that was cleared was a mosque, while the two women were reported to be wives of terrorists who decided to stay along

and fight with their husbands.

Both Año and Lorenzana said that among those killed were Malaysian jihadist leader Amin Baco and about four or five other foreign terrorists. Authorities, however, have yet to officially confirm the exact number of killed foreign terrorists in the last battle.

In Marawi City Col. Romeo S. Brawner Jr., commander of the Joint Task Force Ranao, said that two decomposing bodies of soldiers were also recovered from the last building cleared by troops.

One of the body was severely burned or was intentionally burned, apparently by its captors, while the other body was decapitated, he said.

Brawner added the five-month battle has resulted in the killing of 919 terrorists, the death of 165 policemen and soldiers, and the rescue of 1,780 civilians. The soldiers also recovered at least 864 high-powered firearms.

While the government has won the war against the terrorists, Lorenzana, however, admitted it may not have defeated the ideology completely.

"While we submit that these tactical and strategic gains will not annihilate the ideology completely, we declare that this achievement is clear manifestation of how our regional cooperation can lead to a decisive advance against the proliferation of terrorism in this part of the world," he said.

The defense chief also thanked the country's allies, including China, the United States, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore for their help in crushing the terrorists' siege in Marawi City.

"Because China gave us firearms and ammunition, sniper rifles, while the United States provided intelligence, technical intelligence," Lorenzana said.

"We hope that this operational achievement in Marawi in the Philippines will be the catalyst that shall bring to the fore future cooperation and partnerships, not only against terrorism but also those that shall defeat other regional and global security threats," he added.

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## Lessons learned from Marawi

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año said the military could have done better in the just-concluded battle against the Maute Group in Marawi City had it better appreciated intelligence information about the plan of the Islamic State-inspired group to attack and take control of the city.

He said the military had been so focused on going after the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan, and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters Maguindanao prior to the attack on May 23 that it failed to fully appreciate information that reached it.

"It's in appreciation of intelligence information," said Año on the area where the military could have improved. "Information reached us but we're busy running after terrorists in Sulu, in Basilan (and) in Maguindanao," he said.

Año had targeted to defeat the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups within the first six months of the year. That objective was not attained, partly because the military had to shift focus in containing the Marawi crisis.

"We lacked appreciation (of intelligence information) that these bunch of Maute ISIS holed somewhere in Butig and Piagapo

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### LESSONS

(towns in Lanao del Sur) will do the unthinkable -- which is occupy Marawi," said Año.

The Marawi siege was led by senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, said to have been named by the Islamic State as its leader for Southeast Asia, and brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute. The three died in the operation.

"It was there where we lacked appreciation. We could have prepared and deployed more troops and we should have assigned commanders with high-level of appreciation of intelligence," said Año.

Año said had the military appre-

ciated the intelligence information, "we could have developed and deployed more intelligence assets in those areas (in Marawi)."

Año, who is due to retire from the service on Thursday, would not acknowledge that the feat in Marawi is the defining moment of his 37-year military career. He assumed the top military post in December last year.

"Not really, this (feat) is team effort. This is still AFP (effort), it so happened that I am the chief of staff and I'm happy that during this critical time, I'm the one at the helm of the AFP," he said.

Año last month said the conflict would be over before he retires.

Año also said the Marawi conflict should serve as a lesson to the people.

"For so many years that the Maute Group built up in Marawi, not even one gave information to us. Who is at the losing end here? It's the people of Marawi who did not give us information and didn't cooperate," he said.

Videos and documents found by the military showed the Maute had planned for the attack.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced the end of the operations in Marawi yesterday, after five months of fierce and unfamiliar urban war that has marked the country's biggest security crisis in years.

The Maute occupation stunned a military inexperienced in urban combat and stoked wider concerns that Islamic State loyalists have gained influence among local Muslims and have ambitions to use Mindanao as a base for operations in Southeast Asia.

Those fears are compounded by the organization of the Maute and its ability to recruit young fighters, lure foreign radicals, stockpile huge amounts of arms, and endure 154 days of ground offensive and air strikes.

President Duterte declared Marawi City liberated six days ago, even though fighting was not actually over. — *With Reuters*



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# PH WINS PRAISE OVER MARAWI

CLARK, Pampanga — US Defense Secretary James Mattis on Monday praised the Philippines for its successes in battling Islamic State supporters, as he began an Asian trip aimed at reaffirming American support for regional allies.

Mattis echoed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's statement last week that Filipino forces had "liberated" the southern city of Marawi, after five months of bitter urban fighting that had claimed more than 1,000 lives, even though battles have continued.

"One of the first things I'm going to do when I get there is commend the Philippine military for liberating Marawi from the terrorists," Mattis told reporters on the flight to the Philippines, according to an official transcript.

"It was a very tough fight as you know in southern Mindanao (the local region). And I think the Philippine military sends a very strong message to the terrorists."

Gunmen who had pledged allegiance to IS occupied parts of Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 in what Duterte said was a bid to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate there.

Hundreds of insurgents withstood a US-backed military campaign, including near daily air strikes and artillery fire, that displaced more than 400,000 people and left large parts of Marawi in ruins.

Duterte last week travelled to Marawi to declare it had been "liberated", a day after the Southeast Asian leader for IS, Isnilon Hapilon, was shot dead there.

However, deadly fighting has continued, with the military reporting dozens of militants are still resisting in a small pocket of the city.

Mattis flew to the Philippines to attend a meeting hosted by Southeast Asian defense ministers at the former American military base of Clark, two hours' drive north of Manila.

The Philippines is a former American colony and the two nations are bound by a mutual defense treaty.

But relations have soured under Duterte as he has sought to build closer ties with China and Russia.

Defense ministers from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Russia are also scheduled to attend the two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) event.

Mattis' Asia trip, which will also take him to Thailand and South Korea, comes ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to Asia next month.

Some American allies in the region have become wary of Trump's interest in Asia.

Mattis sought to reassure allies.

"The US remains unambiguously committed to supporting ASEAN," Mattis said.

**AFF**

24 October 2017

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

## Mattis commends AFP for thumping IS in Marawi

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pam-panga - United States (US) Defense Secretary James Mattis on Monday

praised the Philippines for its successes in battling Islamic State (IS) supporters, as he began his Asian trip aimed at reaffirming American support for regional allies. ▶6

## Mattis commends AFP... ◀1

After five months of fighting and claiming more than 1,000 lives, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana declared an end to military operations in Marawi yesterday.

"One of the first things I'm going to do when I get there is commend the Philippine military for liberating Marawi from the terrorists," Mattis told reporters on the flight to the Philippines, according to an official transcript.

"It was a very tough fight as you know in southern Mindanao (the local region). And I think the Philippine military sends a very strong message to the terrorists."

Gunmen who had pledged allegiance to IS occupied parts of Marawi on May 23 in what Pres. Duterte said was a bid to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate there.

Hundreds of insurgents withstood a US-backed military campaign, including near daily air strikes and artillery fire that displaced more than 400,000 people and left large parts of the Islamic city of Marawi in ruins.

Duterte last week travelled to Marawi to declare it had been "liberated", a day after the IS leader in Southeast Asian Isnlon Hapilon, was shot dead along with the leader of the Maute group, Omarkayyam Maute.

### Defense chiefs meet

Mattis flew to the Philippines to attend the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) here at the former American military base. The

Philippines and the United States are bound by a mutual defense treaty. But relations have soured under Duterte as he has sought to build closer ties with China and Russia.

Defense ministers from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Russia are also scheduled to attend the two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) event.

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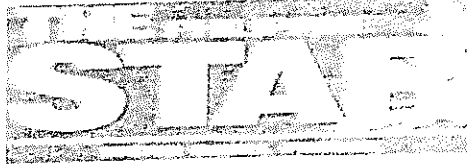
### Mattis sought to reassure allies.

"The US remains unambiguously committed to supporting ASEAN," Mattis said.

"Terrorism and violent extremism remain as challenges in Southeast Asia. Thus, this ADMM will focus on the progress of defense cooperation including the formulation of new initiatives," Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in his welcome remarks.

"I am honored to chair this year's meeting especially on this year of ASEAN's 50th anniversary. Our meeting is an indicator of a robust state of defense cooperation among ASEAN-member states," he added. (With reports from Franco G. Regala and Mar T. Supnad)

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## Defense chiefs laud victory in Marawi

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Defense ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) yesterday condemned extremist violence including the siege of Marawi and lauded the Philippines for liberating the city from Maute terrorists.

Leaving the United States for Asia, US Defense Secretary James Mattis also commended the Philippines yesterday for the defeat of the Islamic State-inspired Mautes.

In a statement, ASEAN defense chiefs condemned "in the strongest terms the attacks carried out by violent extremists across the world, particularly

Turn to Page 12

in Southeast Asia, including the attack by the Maute group in Marawi City, Philippines, which led to casualties, destruction of properties and displacement of people, among others."

The officials of the 10-nation grouping signed a joint declaration discussing various regional issues and concerns at the ongoing 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting and 4th ADMM-Plus meetings in Clark, Pampanga.

The Philippines, this year's ASEAN chair and host, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam reaffirmed the commitment of each country to work together to counter all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

Defense ministers and officials of the ASEAN member-states also expressed their full support for the Philippines' efforts to address the security and humanitarian situation in Marawi.

They likewise acknowledged the need for enhanced regional cooperation through intelligence and information-sharing, increasing surveillance and promoting awareness among the public about the threat of radicalism among member-states.

The ASEAN defense officials further pledged to work together to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in accordance with the ASEAN Convention on Counterterrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counterterrorism as well as identify ways to strengthen counterterrorism cooperation among ASEAN defense establishments.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who officially opened the assembly, said defense officials and delegates participating in the event already had a productive discussion during yesterday's special breakfast meeting regarding the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism, especially in Southeast Asia.

### Mattis praises Phi

Mattis yesterday began an Asian trip aimed at reaffirming American support for regional allies.

He echoed President Duterte's statement last week that Filipino forces had "liberated" Marawi, after five months of bitter urban fighting that had claimed more than 1,000 lives, even though fighting has continued.

"One of the first things I'm going to do when I get there is commend the Philippine military for liberating Marawi from the terrorists," Mattis told reporters on his flight to the Philippines, according to an official transcript.

"It was a very tough fight as you know in southern Mindanao. And I think the Philippine military sends a very strong message to the

terrorists."

His Asian trip, which will also take him to Thailand and South Korea, comes ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to Asia next month

### NoKor high on agenda

Mattis also said that curbing military threats from North Korea would be high on the agenda.

Tension has been high on the divided peninsula for months with Pyongyang staging its sixth nuclear test and launching two intercontinental ballistic missiles that apparently brought much of the US mainland into range, while Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong-un trade threats of war and personal insults.

Mattis said he would discuss the "regional security crisis caused by reckless... North Korea," among other issues.

At the forum, Mattis is also expected to hold three-way talks with his counterparts from South Korea and Japan - key US allies in Asia - before visiting Seoul for annual defense talks.

"We will discuss... how we are going to maintain peace by keeping our militaries alert while our diplomats - Japanese, South Korean and US - work with all nations to denuclearize the Korean peninsula," Mattis told reporters on his aircraft.

The ASEAN defense ministers also issued a joint declaration strongly urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "to immediately comply with its obligations arising from all the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolution" and expressing "support toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner."

### Peace, stability in SCS

The importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability and "freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea" and conformity to the decision of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) were also touched during yesterday's signing of the joint declaration.

The UNCLOS favored the Philippine position in its territorial dispute with China in South China Sea, also called the West Philippine Sea.

In a nine-page resolution, the defense ministers expressed their support for the verdict and cited the "need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS." - With Ding Cervantes, AFP

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By KEITH BACONGCO

# Soldiers recount battles with foes not afraid to die

MARAWI CITY – The enemy hid behind walls, in which they bore holes large enough for the barrels of their sniper rifles. Inside houses, they lay in ambush behind bookshelves or curtains. And they would conceal improvised explosive devices (IEDs) behind mundane materials like GI sheets or plywood boards.

These were just a few of the challenges in the urban battle that faced the elite Scout Rangers of the Philippine Army, a unit rather steeped in jungle warfare experience, when they were deployed here just days after the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute Group started to wreak havoc on May 23.

"We were trained for jungle warfare. This urban warfare was really new to us, we are not used to urban fighting," Sgt. Jon, a lead scout, said in an interview.

Before Marawi, the only other urban warfare experience they had was a three-week standoff with Moro National Liberation Front (MNFL) fighters in September, 2013, in Zamboanga City.

That was why the Scout Rangers came to this city saddled with some trepidation.

"Medyo may halong kaba dahil alam namin na urban area. Pero excited ako dahil bata pa ako naririnig ko na ang lugar na Marawi na peaceful daw," Sgt. Jon said.

They were airlifted from Jolo, Sulu on May 25, and immediately plunged into action after arriving here to back-up beleaguered troops who were already pinned down by enemy fire.

"Nag try kami na pumasok the following day pero medyo nahirapan kami dahil naka-pwesto na ang aming mga kalaban, nasa defensive position na kasi sila," said the battled-hardened 37-year-old from South Cotabato.

A corporal in Sgt. Jon's team acknowledged that they learned a lot from their battle experience in the city – and nowhere was it near the lessons they had learned from engaging Abu Sayyaf bandits in the jungles of Basilan and Jolo.

"In the jungle, we could easily

maneuver around. But here in the urban setting, there were instances we were pinned down. You could not just move from one building to another," noted Jay, a corporal who has been in the regiment for seven years.

Solid concrete walls, narrow alleys, and multi-story buildings made the fighting even more difficult.

But what was striking to Rangers was that their enemy were bold enough to "engage us face-to-face, and were obviously not afraid to die."

"Yan ang pinakamahirap na kalaban," said Jay.

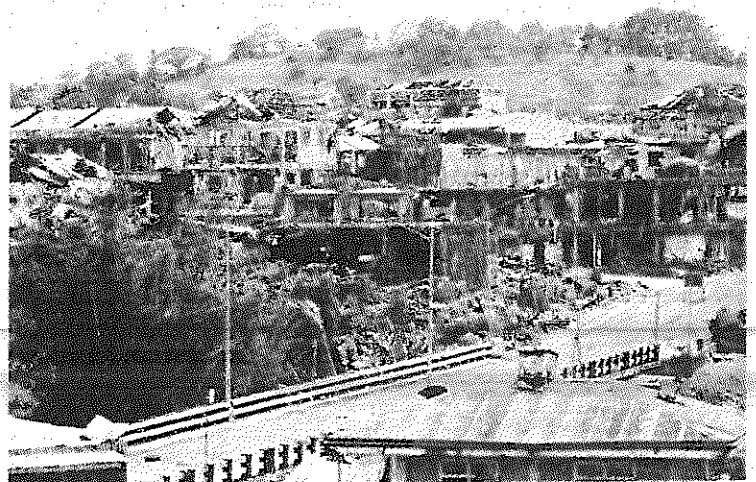
In the first few weeks, Jay said they suffered several casualties or wounded because the terrorists were in more advantageous positions.

"Mapiga talaga ang isip mo dito kung paano mo ma capture ang objective. Kasi hindi kami sanay sa urban fighting. Kung sa bundok lang ito, kaya namin tapusin ang misyon minsan hindi aabot ng isang oras, tapos na ang labanan," said a 29-year-old Scout Ranger.

But adjust, adapt, and innovate, the Scout Rangers did.

Sgt. Jon said they had to do with little sleep, with an hour's nap considered a luxury when there was nothing but mayhem and carnage around them. They called this "tulog manok," a state of rest that allows you to spring back into action at the slightest noise or movement around them.

He added that he and his men didn't even have a chance to take off their shoes for a month while the encounters with the Maute razed furiously around them. There were even times that they had to



MARAWI City in ruins.

eat meals with the bodies of dead terrorists beside them.

That is why the war in Marawi will be best remembered not only for the bravery of the Scout Rangers, but also for their resiliency and ability to adapt and innovate in an entirely unfamiliar territory.

"Magaling din ang tactics nila pero nagawan din namin ng paraan. Pinag-isipan namin as a unit. Hanggang sa nung nasanay na kami, parang naglalaro na lang din kami," Corporal Jay remembered.

For instance, the terrorists would bore holes in walls, just big enough to fit the barrels of their sniper rifles to take out approaching government forces one-by-one.

There, too, were instances when the Rangers would encounter enemies who were just hiding behind bookshelves.

"Kaya pagpasok mo, hindi mo na-mapansin na may tao sa likod kasi di mo makita ang butas sa

likod ng bookshelves. Kaya yung iba sa amin na wounded agad pagpasok pa lang," said the lanky and bearded corporal.

But as the fighting raged, the Rangers were able to adapt and become more cautious with every structure they entered and every block they tried to re-take.

Corporal Jay also admitted that, aside from sniper fire, some of his colleagues were killed by IEDs that were cleverly concealed, many of them in plain-sight.

He cited as an example a narrow alley that connected two buildings that were already occupied by Scout Ranger teams. The pathway was laden with GI sheets, which looked more like debris strewn about by all the fighting and bombing.

"Dinadaan na namin yun araw-araw. Pero noong mga late July, bigla na lang may sumabog na IED. Kakapasok ko lang sa butas pero 'yung nakabuntot sa

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - E

akin ang tinamaan sa likod ang aming sarhento," said the 27-year old Bicolano corporal.

The sergeant expired while on the way to a medic station onboard an armored personnel carrier.

The Scout Rangers later found out that their ill-fated colleague had stepped on a pressure-donated IED hidden beneath the pile of GI sheets.

Jay also said there were times when the enemy would throw Molotov cocktails at them while ascending structures they were already close to re-taking.

"Minsan kung mag clearing kami ng isang building, sinusunog ng mga kalaban. Isa yah sa mga nagpahirap sa amin. Minsan ang iba sa amin tumatalon nalang para lang hindi masunog," said the corporal.

During these assaults on these buildings, the Scout Rangers would sometimes meet their enemies face-to-face or with just a wall separating them from each other.

"Minsan nga nag-aasaran kami, kanyawan pa. Kapag kinakatok namin ang pader, kumakatok din sila," Jay said, recalling the bizarre close encounter with the enemy.

It was sometime in August that the Scout Rangers started to feel that the end in the fighting was near.

"Inakyat namin yung mataas na building na nakuha namin, tiningnan namin ang lake. Nakaka-high morale nung makita namin kasi pakiramdam namin malapit na kami sa finish line," Sgt. Jon said.

From the dozens of skirmishes, Sgt. Jon recalls that it was the battle for Banggolo that proved to be most formidable as it took them almost four months to prevail and be able to finally re-capture the four-lane Gomisa Avenue.

The encounters were from building-to-building as they inched their way towards the end of Gomisa, which bared the shores of Lake Lanao.

"Kahit na mahirap ang dinaanan namin dito at marami rin nalagas sa amin, proud pa rin kami sa aming accomplishment dito," Sgt. Jon said.

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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Scout Ranger tells about life in war zone

By KEITH BACONGCO

MARAWI CITY - The enemy hid behind walls where they bored holes big enough to fit the barrel of their sniper rifles. Inside houses, they positioned themselves behind book shelves or curtains. And conceal improvised explosive device (IEDs) in unsuspecting sites,

even GI sheets and plywood.

These were just few of the challenges faced by the elite Scout Rangers of the Philippine Army, a unit trained in jungle warfare experience when they were deployed here just days after the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute Group started to wreak havoc on May 23.

▶6

## Scout Ranger tells...

"We were trained for jungle warfare. This urban warfare was really new to us, we are not used to urban fighting," Sgt. Jon, a lead scout, told The Manila Bulletin in an interview.

Before Marawi, the urban warfare experience that came close was a three-week standoff with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) fighters in September 2013 in Zamboanga City.

"We had mix emotions because this is an urban area. But I was excited because when I was young I already heard a lot about Marawi being a peaceful place," Sgt. Jon said in Filipino.

They were airlifted from Jolo, Sulu on May 25, and immediately went to battle to support beleaguered troops pinned down

by enemy fire.

"We tried to enter Marawi the next day but we had much difficulty because the enemy had already taken defensive positions," the battle-tested 37-year-old from South Cotabato added.

### Lessons learned

A corporal in Sgt. Jon's team admitted learning a lot from their Marawi mission and the experiences in engaging the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Jolo pale in comparison.

"In the jungle, we could easily maneuver around. But here in the urban setting, there were instances when we were pinned down. You could not just move from one building to another," said Cpl. Jay who has been with the regiment

for seven years.

Solid concrete walls, narrow alleys, and multi-story buildings made the fighting even more difficult.

But what scared the Scout Rangers was the ability of their enemy to "engage us face-to-face, and were obviously not afraid to die."

"That is the most difficult type of enemy," said Cpl. Jay.

They suffered several casualties in the first few weeks because the terrorists knowing the place took vantage positions.

"You would really wrack your brains on what strategy to use to reach your objective because we are not used to this kind of terrain. If these were only the mountains, we would be able to accomplish our mission in an hour," Cpl. Jay added.

But adjust, adapt, and innovate, the Scout Rangers did.

Sgt. Jon said they would have catnaps to regain their strength. An hour nap is already a luxury in battle.

The troops didn't even have the chance to take off their boots for a month as the battle raged. And there were times they had to eat their meals beside the corpses of terrorists.

That is why the war in Marawi will be best remembered not only for the bravery of the Scout Rangers, but also for their resiliency and ability to adapt and innovate in an entirely unfamiliar territory.

"Their tactics were good. But we were able to outsmart them to the point that when we got used to them and it felt like play already," Cpl. Jay shared.

### Finish Line

It was sometime in August that the

Scout Rangers started to feel the end in the fighting was near.

"We went up a tall building we had recaptured from where we could see Lanao lake. It lifted our morale when we saw the lake because that was when we felt that the finish line was near," Sgt. Jon said.

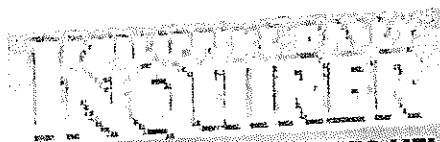
From the many skirmishes they had, Sgt. Jon recalls it was the battle for Banggolo that proved to be most formidable as it took them almost four months to finally re-capture the four-lane Gomisa Avenue.

The encounters were from building-to-building as they inched their way towards the end of Gomisa, which bared the shores of Lake Lanao.

"Even if we had a hard time and lost many of our comrades in this mission, we are proud of what we have accomplished here," Sgt. Jon shared.

Local: 5285, 5295

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'THEY REALLY WENT TO HELL'—AND BACK

# TREAT MARAWI TROOPS WELL, DUTERTE URGES PUBLIC

By **Carla P. Gomez**  
and **Joey A. Gabieta**  
@inquirervisayas

**BACOLOD CITY**—Soldiers have started to return to their mother units in the Visayas as the fighting in Marawi City comes to an end.

President Duterte has one request: Treat them well.

## To hell and back

Mr. Duterte told a crowd of 5,000 gathered at the Bacolod public plaza on Sunday night for the culmination of the MassKara Festival that returning soldiers must be welcomed

or even invited to a party.

"They really went to hell. Others did not make it," he said.

Members of the 82nd Reconnaissance Company returned to their camp at Santa Rita town in Samar province on Sunday after their deployment to Marawi City.

Hundreds of soldiers led by Col. Alberto Desoyo arrived at Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport in Tacloban City, Leyte province, around 2:30 p.m. on board a C-130 plane from Villamor Air Base in Manila and proceeded to their headquarters in four trucks.

"It was a very emotional

scene. Our soldiers were deployed to Marawi in July and their respective families and loved ones surely missed them," said Capt. Cherry Junia, information officer of the 8th Infantry Division (ID) based in Catbalogan, Samar.

Some of their children didn't immediately recognize their fathers, as most of the soldiers were unshaven and scraggly when they arrived.

## Answered prayer

Danicelle Molino, 12, said she was happy that her father, Sgt. Dennis Molino, returned home unhurt—an answered prayer

and an early Christmas gift.

"I am thankful to God for bringing my father back safe," she said.

The girl said she was proud of her father and the rest of the soldiers who fought for the liberation of Marawi from terrorists.

Junia said the soldiers would undergo stress debriefing and retraining before they resumed operations against the communist New People's Army.

In Negros Occidental province, the 3rd ID was also waiting for the arrival of soldiers belonging to the 11th, 15th and 82nd Infantry Battalions

(IBs) who were deployed to Zamboanga, Lanao del Norte, and Marawi.

Three soldiers from the 15th IB and three from the elite Scout Rangers were killed during the fighting in Marawi, according to the military.

## Retaliatory attacks

During his speech in Bacolod, Mr. Duterte warned the public to be prepared for possible retaliation from Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists group after their defeat in Marawi.

"Please take care that nothing of the sort will happen again, especially here in the

Visayas," he said.

The Catholic Church also urged the faithful to remain vigilant against terrorism.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said on Monday that the military campaign in Marawi was not only against local terrorists like the Maute group but also against all forms of terrorism.

"The fight is not only against Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute (the leaders of the siege), but also against terrorism and violence from whatever quarter," Pabillo said. —WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE M. AURELIO IN MANILA INQ



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# TRUMPET INQUIRY

## Bias feared over ID system

Group says ID cards will promote discrimination of Moros but mayor says program covers all Marawi residents

By Allan Nawal  
@anawalINQ

MARAWI CITY—The proposed identification (ID) system for displaced residents of Marawi City could lead to massive discrimination and human rights violations, a group claiming to represent the war victims said.

"Tindeg Ranao fears that the issuance of IDs through the barangay chairpersons will further be politicized and may ostracize families, who are not supportive of the IDPs' (internally displaced persons) current leaders and critical of President Duterte's declaration of martial law since martial law will still be imposed alongside the rehabilitation of Marawi City," Aida Ibrahim, spokesperson for Tindeg Ranao, said in a statement.

Ibrahim said Tindeg Ranao believed that the imposition of an ID system would be "akin to previous policies under the 'war on terror' that in the past targeted Moro communities tagged as havens of terrorists such as Sulul, Maguindanao and even Mo-



**FAR FROM HOME** A woman in an evacuation center in Baloi town in Agusan del Norte province, cooks rice for her family as she and other evacuees spend their day awaiting word from the government about their return to war-torn Marawi City.—BARRY OHAYLAN

ro communities in Manila." "It differentiates Moro from the rest of the communities and Marawi City from the rest of the country. The ID system will only further the marginalization of the Moros by treating us different [but] it will also constitutionalize the already existing

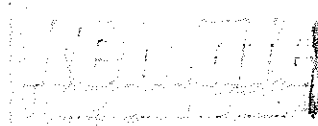
discrimination and stigma about the Muslims in our country portrayed as violent people or terrorists where in fact we are only victims of systemic discrimination," Ibrahim added.

Earlier, Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the Joint Task Group Ranao, said

the military and local officials of Marawi had agreed on the issuance of ID cards to residents to guard against terrorists and suspected criminals.

Brawner said identification documents would be based on census and voters' data to ensure that those returning to

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Pahina. 2

### **3Rs haharapin ng gobyerno sa Marawi**

DAHIL tapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City at ang rebelyon na umabot ng 154 araw, agad na haharapin ng pamahalaan ang hamon nitong 'rebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation' ng Islamic City.

Sinabi ni Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella na kailangan na agad na harapin ang pinsala ng Marawi lalo na sa aspeto ng imprastraktura, pribadong ari-arian at pagbabalik ng libo-libong bakwit.

Sa tinagal aniya kasi ng bakbakan sa Marawi City ay nagresulta ito ng libong katao na namatay at napatay mula sa panig ng terorista, kabilang na sina Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute at Mahmud Ahmad.

Pinuri naman ng Malakanyang ang tropa ng pamahalaan kabilang na ang mga namatay sa laban sa kanilang katapangan, kagitingan at sakripisyo.

Sa ulat, opisyal nang tapos ang giyera sa Marawi City matapos ang limang buwang bakbakan sa pagitan ng militar at ISIS-Maute terror group.

Sinabi ito mismo ni Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana sa gitna ng meeting ng mga ASEAN Defense Minister sa Clark, Pampanga.

Kaugnay nito, inihayag naman ni Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año na aabot sa 42 katawan ng mga terorista ang kanilang narekober mula sa dalawang gusali at mosque sa battle zone.

Magugunitang nitong nakaraang linggo ay inihayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na "liberated" o malaya na mula sa mga Maute terrorist ang Marawi City matapos mapatay ng hanay ng militar ang mga lider nitong sina Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute at Dr. Mahmud Ahmad.

KRIS JOSE

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Pahina. 2

## LIBRENG PABAHAY SA KAAKANG NG MGA PULIS AT SUNDALO NA NAMATAY SA GIYERA

Tinupad na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kanyang pangako na libreng pabahay sa mga kaanak ng mga sundalo at pulis na namatay sa naganap na mga digmaan sa bansa tulad ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City.

Ito ay makaraang inansiyasyon ng National Housing Authority (NHA) na bukas na ang aplikasyon para tumanggap ng mga kaanak ng mga sundalo at pulis na namatay o mga mga killed in action (KIA) sa mga giyera sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Architect Susana Nonato, head ng PNP-AFP Housing project ng ahensiya, may 73 KIA na kaanak ng sundalo at 30 KIA na kaanak ng pulis ang benepisyaryo na ngayon ng libreng pabahay ng Duterte administration sa ilalim ng Comprehensive Social Benefit Program ng pamahalaan.

"Priority natin ngayon ang mga AFP/PM KIA bawat pulis na namatay sa giyera, bawat sundalo na namatay sa giyera ay pinagkakalooban namin ng P450,000 worth ng housing unit. Libre po

ito gaya po ng naipangako ni Pangulong Duterte, kung mayroon naman pong lupain ang immediate family ng KIA, AFP at PNP personnel at gusto nilang doon magpatayo ng bahay ay bibigyan po sila ng NHA ng P450,000 na halaga ng bahay at kung ire-repair po ang bahay ay P100,00 po ang ibibigay ng NHA," pahayag ni Nonato.

Anyang budget na laan dito ng pamahalaan ay kasama sa P6 bilyong budget housing project ng gobyerno.

Ang mga lugar na pagtatayuan ng libreng

pabahay ay nasa Davao, Iligan, LaUnion, Zamboanga at iba pa na ang pabahay ay may 80 square meter floor area.

Inanunsiyo din ni Nonato na umaabot naman sa 60,265 na mga sundalo at pulis kabilang na ang mga bumbero, jail personnel at Bucor personnel ang nagpasakop na sa programang pabahay ng pamahalaan sa Bulacan at Davao na may monthly amortization na P400 a month at target ng NHA na maiturn over sa 2018. -Angie dela Cruz-

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# EQUIPMENT DONATION FROM CHINA FOR MARAWI REHAB NOW IN ILIGAN PORT

By **Rommel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

About \$3 million (P155 million) worth of heavy equipment donated by the Chinese government for rehabilitation efforts in Marawi City has arrived in Iligan City, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, in a statement, said that the Philippine and Chinese governments were now facilitating the documents in preparation for the official turnover of the donation, tentatively set later this month at the Iligan Port, where the cargo arrived on Oct. 9.

"We are thankful to the Chinese government for the swift and timely arrival of its donation," Dominguez said.

"China was among the first countries to offer its assistance in rehabilitating Marawi City, a gesture that further cements

our strong bilateral relations and reflects the warm friendship between our two countries," he added.

The finance chief said the donation consisted of dump trucks, cement mixers, excavators and bulldozers.

Dominguez said the Department of Public Works and Highways, the agency sitting as vice chair of Task Force Bangon Marawi, had been asked to oversee the use of the equipment especially since this was a government-to-government donation.

In July, President Duterte created an inter-agency task force—chaired by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana—that would lead the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation program for Marawi City.

In August, Dominguez talked of plans for the Bureau of Treasury to sell "patriotic" bonds to help fund Marawi's rehabilitation.

"We expect investors' confidence to strengthen further and the economy to grow even faster now that the conflict [in Marawi] has been virtually resolved, and the government has started raising spending on infrastructure and human capital development, which will supercharge growth and create more jobs for our people," Dominguez said.

Mr. Duterte declared last week that Marawi had been "liberated" from the influence of terrorists who laid siege to the city on May 23. On Monday, the military stopped combat operations in the Lanao del Sur provincial capital, signaling the end of the five-month war.

The DOF said China had also donated security material and equipment to the Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Presidential Security Group as part of Beijing's commit-

ment under the Agreement for Economic and Technical Cooperation with the Philippines that was signed during Mr. Duterte's state visit last year.

The agreement involves a grant of 100-million renminbi (about P776 million) from China to implement projects for "anti-illegal drugs and law enforcement security cooperation."

The DOF said that the government was also set to sign with China an agreement in the form of exchange of letters for the construction of drug rehabilitation facilities in the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Sarangani, both of which would be funded by a \$60-million grant from Beijing.

According to the DOF's International Finance Group, the Department of Health is now facilitating the necessary documents to clear the way for the construction of the rehabilitation facilities. INQ

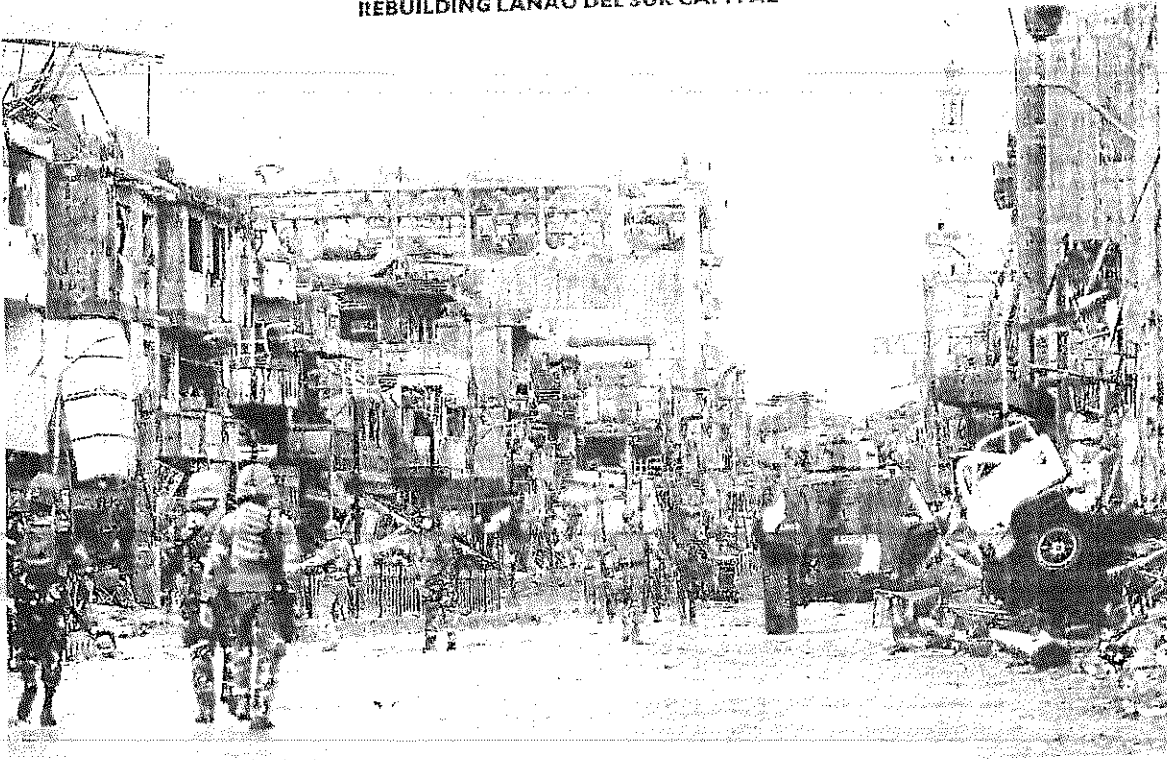
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24 October 2017

# INSURER

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## REBUILDING LANAÑO DEL SUR CAPITAL

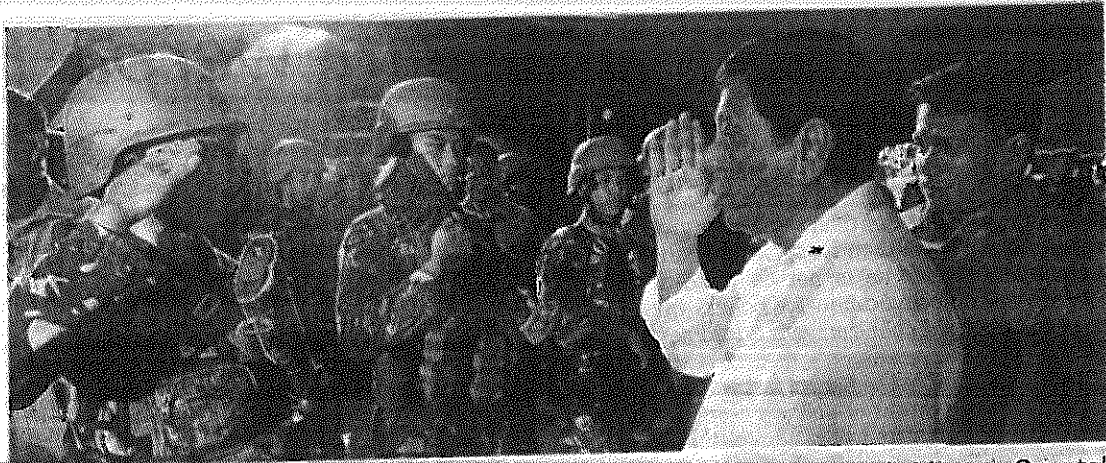


Destruction greeted soldiers as they patrolled Bangolo district in Marawi after President Duterte declared the city free from influence of terrorists. —JEFFREY MATEM

24 October 2017

# INSPIRING INQUIRY

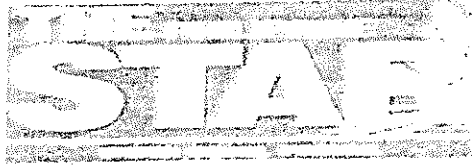
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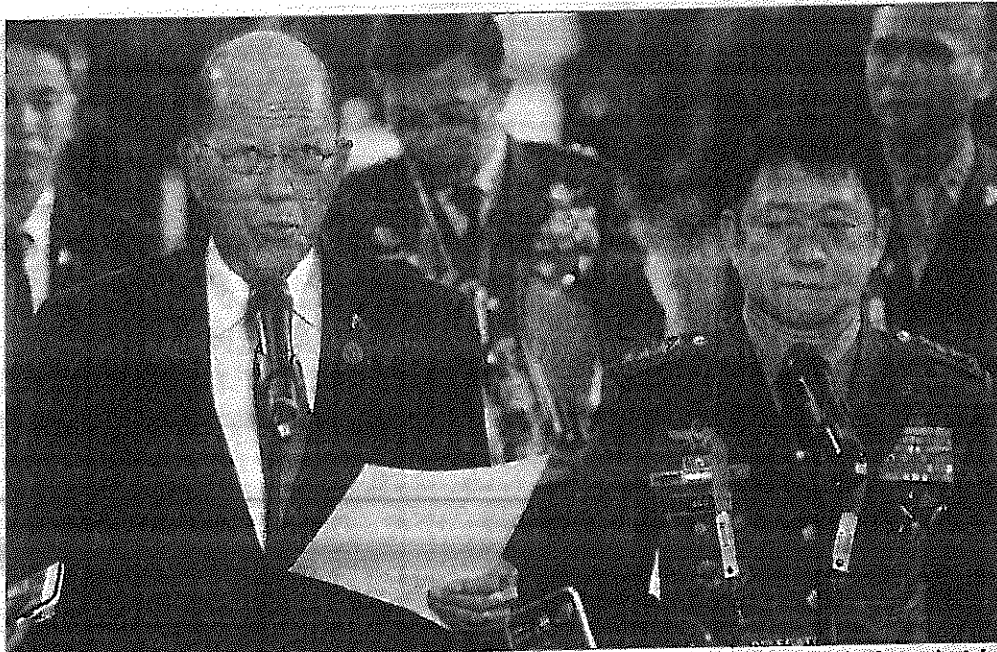
President Duterte salutes troops preparing to leave the Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental on Oct. 20. The President has warned that he would declare a revolutionary government if his critics' attempt to destabilize the government escalates and causes trouble. --KIWI BULACLAC

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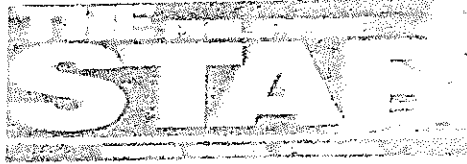


Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana reads a statement announcing the end of combat in Marawi City at the ongoing Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting in Clark, Pampanga yesterday. At right is Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

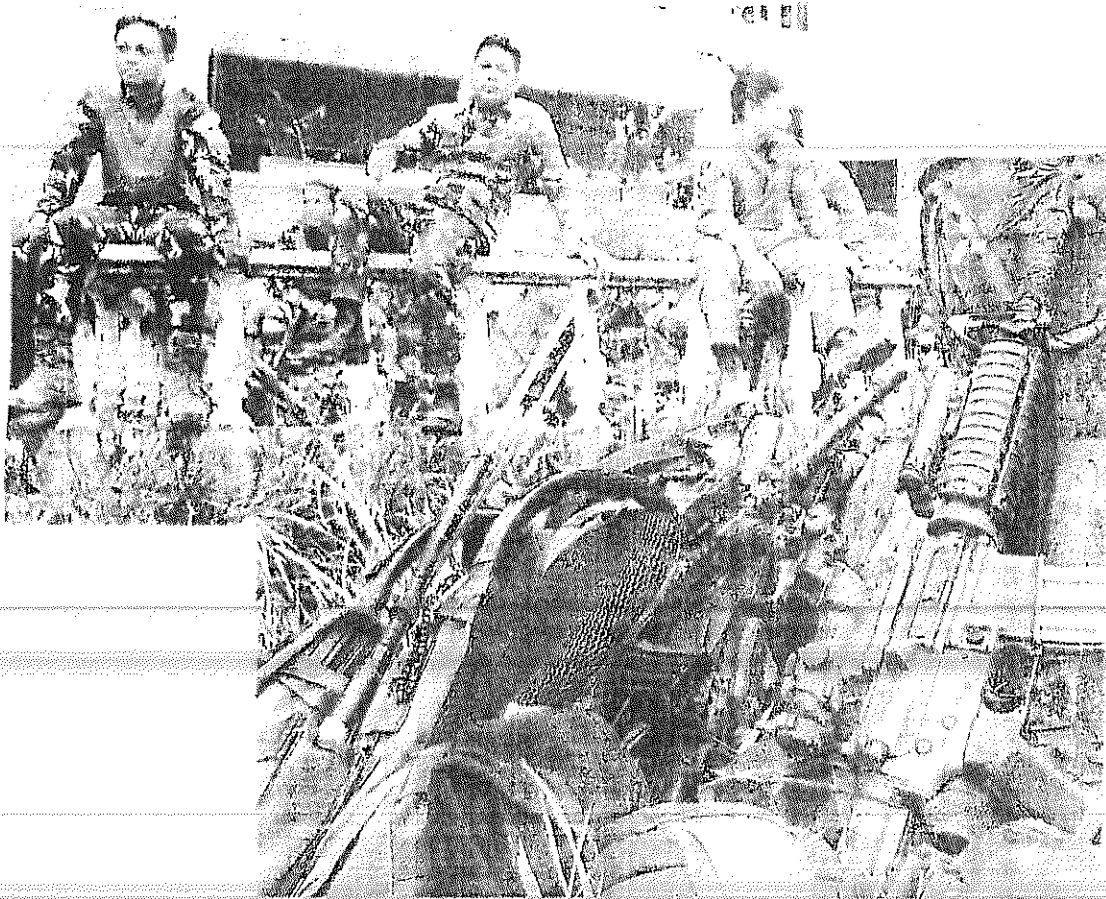
AP

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Firearms and battle gear are seen on the ground as soldiers take a break in Bangor, Marawi City hours after combat operations were declared tentatived yesterday.

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# Business Mirror

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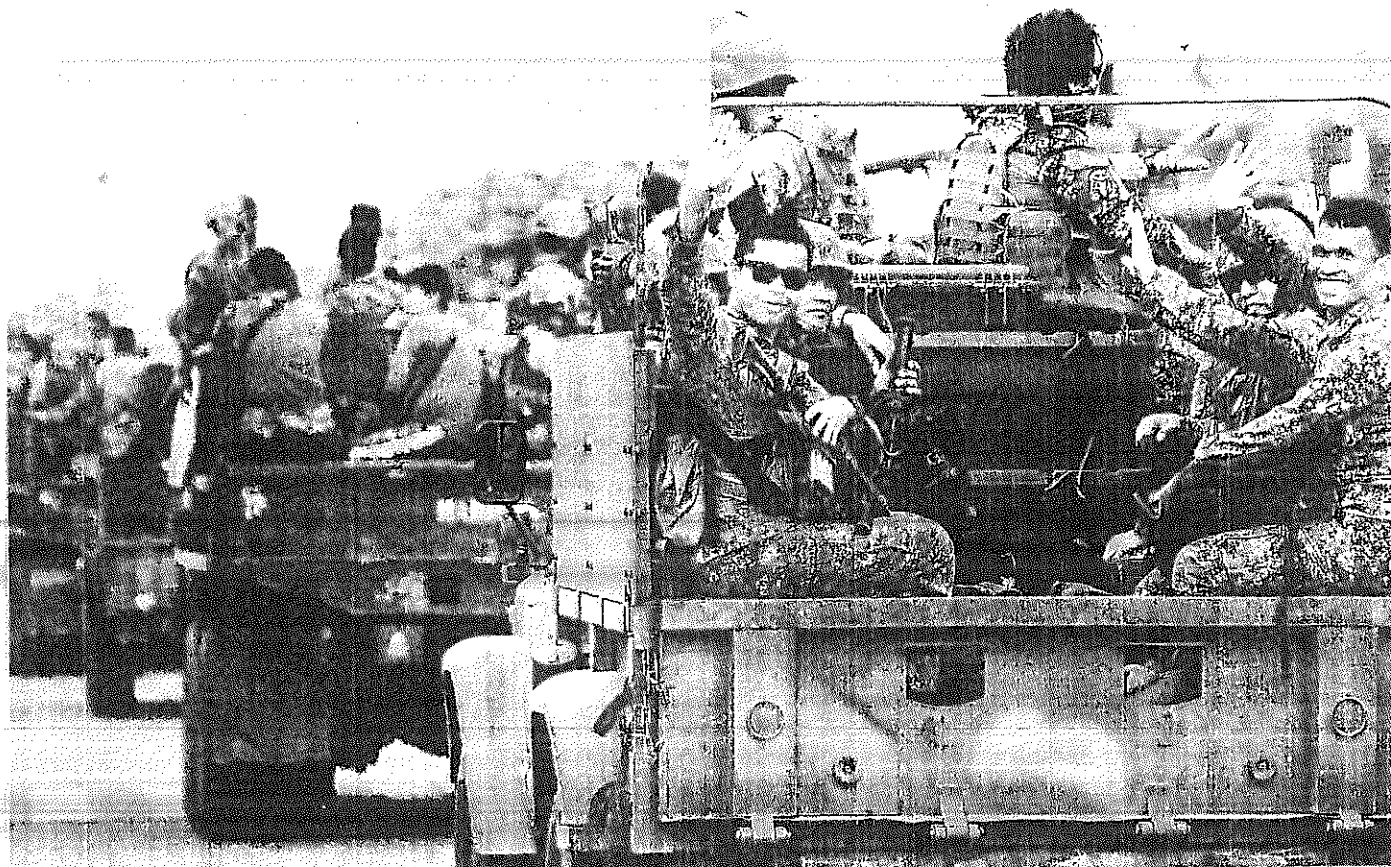


ONE of the first battalions that have been deployed in war-ravaged Marawi City arrives to a hero's welcome at the Villamor Air Base last Friday in Pasay City. Defense and military officials on Monday declared the end of fighting in the city following the defeat of Islamic State-inspired Maute Group. AP

24 October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - Troops from the Marine Battalion Landing Team leave Marawi City after five months of fighting pro-Islamic State militant groups. (Romso Ranoco/Reuters)

24 October 2017

PUBLIC FILES

Page. 1

**Victory meal! Ngayong tapos na ang giyera, ang mga gutom na Scout Rangers ay masayang sama-samang kumain sa isang “boodle fight” sa Marawi City. (Mula sa Scout Ranger Books)**



24 October 2017



Pahina. 4



## Editorial

# Hanapin, supporters ng Maute

**KAHAPON**, inihayag ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na tapos na ang labanan sa Marawi. Eksaktong limang buwan kahapon nang mabawi ng government troops ang siyudad. Ang 30 terorista na nasa isang gusali at pinaniniwalaang napatay na lahat ay kasalukuyang pinapasok ng mga sundalo habang sinusulat ito. Ang mga terorista ay unti-unting nalagas makaraang mapatay ang mga lider na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute noong nakaraang linggo. Parang mga daga na hindi malaman kung saan magtatago ang mga terorista.

Walang pagsidlan sa tuwa ang mga evacuees na limang buwang dumanas nang mahirap na kalagayan. Tinatayang 359, 680 ang evacuees. Sa wakas, makikita na rin nila ang mga napinsalang bahay at magsisimula na silang muli. Kahapon, sinimulan nang alisin ang mga harang sa kalsada patungong Marawi na ang ibig sabihin, maaari nang puntahan ang ilang lugar, maliban sa main battle ares na pinaniniwalaang may mga nakatanim na bomba.

Maaaring napatay na nga lahat ang mga miyembro ng Maute pero ang isang malaking tanong ngayon, nasaan ang mga taong sumuporta at nag-finance sa mga terorista. Ayon sa report, nakapasok ang Maute sa Marawi dahil sinuportahan ng mga maiimpluwensiyang tao. Naipasok ang mga matataas na kalibre ng baril at nakapaggawa ng mga tunnel. Kabisadung-kabisado rin nila kung saang gusali puwesto na para bang nakapag-survey na sila para maging matibay ang depensa.

Ang nararapat gawin ng AFP ngayon ay simulan nang hanapin ang mga taong tumulong at sumuporta sa Maute. Lubhang delikado ang mga taong ito. Kung hindi sila mahuhuli, maaaring mag-finance o tumulong uli sila sa ibang teroristang grupo. Hindi na dapat tigilan ng AFP ang paghahanap sa supporters ng terorista. Kung maari pulbusin din ang mga ito gaya nang nangyari sa Maute.

Isang aral naman ang naiwan sa mga taga-Marawi ngayong tapos na ang labanan. Sana maging mapagmatyag at alerto na sila sa mga kahinahinalang tao na papasok sa kanilang siyudad. Ireport agad ang mga ito. Huwag nang hayaang magkaroon ng Marawi 2.

24 October 2017

# Balita

Page. 7

ANG NANGUNINGANG PAKAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BAKSA P18.00

## Bangungot ng martial law



**SENTIDO KOMUN**  
**Celo Lagmay**

SA kabila ng matitinding kahilingan na may kaakibat na paninikluhod ng ilang sektor ng sambayanan na isin na ang martial law sa Mindanao, hindi ako makapaniwala na si Pangulong Duterte ay luluhod, wika nga, sa naturang mga pakiusap. Hanggang ngayon, lalong lumalakas ang aking kutob na ang batas militar ay mananatili sa nasabing lugar na pinamumugaran pa ng mga

bandidong walang patumangga sa paghahasik ng sindak at pangamib sa mga komunidad – mga terorista na hindi malayong kaalyado ng mga napaslang na lider na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Omar Maute.  
Totoong idineklara na ng Pangulo ang kalayaan ng Marawi City, ang naging eksena ng malagim na bakbakan ng mga terorista at ng ating mga sundalo, pulis at iba pang alagad ng batas. At sinimulan na ang malawakang rehabilitasyon ng naturang siyudad na talaga namang nawasak at nagmistulang no man's island sapagkat hanggang ngayon ay

nananatili pa sa evacuation centers ang ating mga kapatid na Muslim.  
Gayunman, laging alanganin ang reaksyon ng matataas na opisyal ng militar kapag may nagtatanong kung kailan aalisin ang martial law sa Mindanao. Maging si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, ang administrador ng martial law sa naturang lugar, ay hindi pa nagpapadala ng rekomendasyon sa Pangulo hinggil sa nabanggit na isyu. Maliwanag na kinikilatis pa nilang mabuti ang situwasyon upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng sambayanan laban sa mga terorista

na sinusuportahan ng mga dayuhang lakas, tulad ng Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).  
Sa bahaging ito, naniniwala ako na may kaugnayan sa mga planong paghahasik ng gulo, hindi lamang sa Mindanao kundi maging sa buong kapuluan, ang pagkakaaresto kamakailan sa Taguig City sa maybahay ng isang lider ng mga terorista. Sinabi na ito ay nangangalap ng mga naghahangad na maging miyembro ng Maute Group. Ibig sabihin, nagkaroon ng spill-over o humugos sa Metro Manila ang mga...  
Sundan sa pahina 11

### Bangungot...

Mula sa pahina 7

terorista na maaaring nakatakas sa Marawi City.  
Isa pa, at ito ay nakababahala, tiriyak ng ating mga awtoridad na tinutugis nila ang tatlong anak ni Hapilon na hindi malayong humahuli sa kanilang ama sa paghahasik ng terorismo. May mga ulat na posibleng sumapi sa naturang grupo ang ilang Abu Sayyaf at iba pang bandido na tulad ng New People's Army (NPA) at Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).  
Ang hinihinalang panggugulo ng nabanggit na terror groups ang natitiyak kong dahilan ng pananatili ng martial law sa Mindanao. Hindi kaya ang nakakikilabot na bangungot ng batas militar ay gumapang din sa iba pang panig ng kapuluan? Umuugong ang pahayag ng Pangulo: hindi aalisin ang martial law hanggang hindi nalilipol ang pinakahuline terorista.

24 October 2017

*[Handwritten signature]*

Pahina. 5

## MARAWI CITY IS FREE AGAIN NA NGA BA?

Sa wakas ay natapos na rin ang nakatutuwa nang may halong kalungkutan na giyera sa pagitan ng tropang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at mga teroristang Maute Group at Abu Sayyaf Group-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria matapos mapatay ang tatlong leader ng nasabing grupo.

Nakatutuwa dahil kahit papaano ay mabibigyan na ng katahimikan ang mga mamamayan ng Marawi City na halos limang buwan na binalot ng takot at pangamba dahil sa walang tigil na pagpapalitan ng pulok sa pagitan ng sundaio at mga teroristang grupo.

May mga bakas naman ng kalungkutan tayong naramdaman dahil sa napakaraming nasawi sa giyerang ito at sa bandang huli ay mas marami sa mga Maraweno ang nangamatay dahil lamang sa magkakaibang ideolohiyang ipinaglalaman ng bawat isa.

Filipino sa Filipino ang nagpapatayan dahil lamang sa magkaibang paniniwala sa idolohiya kaya tuloy, hanggang ngayon ay wala pa ring tiyak na direksyon na patutunguhan ang kanilang mga ipinaglalaman na bagay na hindi maintindihan ng gobyerno kung ano nga ba talaga ang gusto ng mga mamamayang Filipino.

Pagod na ang ating gobyerno sa kaisip kung ano ba



# JUAN DE SABOG

III JOHNNY MAGALONA

talaga ang kailangan ng mamamayan para mapayapa at tahimik na mamuhay na lamang ang mga ito nang walang kinikimkim na takot at pangamba na baka bukas ay may muli na namang maghahasik ng kaguluhan sa bansa.

Tapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City. Sana ay tapusin na rin ng mga kritiko ng gobyerno ang kanilang mga ginagawang walang patumanggang pagbanat sa mga ginagawa ng pamahalaan tungo sa ikabubuti ng ating bansa.

Sama-sama nating ipagdiwang ang tagumpay na ipinaglaban ng AFP na palatandaan na rin ng kakayahan nilang ipagtaggol ang "Bayang Pilipinas" sa kamay ng mga Maute Group at maging sa iba pang mga manlulupig kahit marami ang nalagas sa hanay nila!

Let us unite and celebrate our success!!!!

Mabuhay ang AFP soldiers, Mabuhay si Pang. Rodrigo Duterte, Mabuhay si DND Sec. Delfin Lorenzana at Mabuhay si AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Ano, Mabuhay si Col. Romeo Brawner and his company, Marawi City is Free again!

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Pahina. 5

## TALASAN ANG MATA VS TERORISTA

SA pagtatapos ng madugong labanan sa Marawi City, hindi pa rin tayo nakatitiyak na ligtas tayo sa mga teroristang rebelde na nakatakas o nananatili sa ibang lokalidad.

Napuksa man ng magingiting na tropa ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang Maute Group at pangkat ni Isnilon Hapilon na ISIS, malamang na may susulpot na bagong lider at bagong grupo na magbabalak muling manggulo.

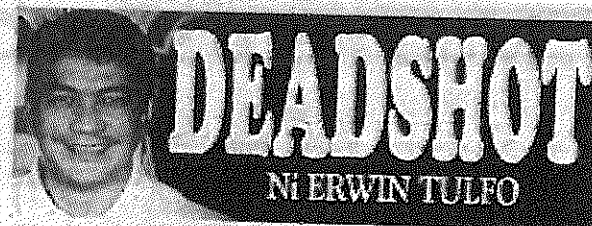
Iyan ang dahilan kaya nananatili ang Martial Law sa Mindanao bagama't

idineklara na ni Pangulong Duterte na malaya na sa terorista ang Marawi City.

Tungkulin naman ng taumbayan na maging mapagbantay at maging alerto sa pagtukoy sa anomang grupo na samapataya sa Islamic State tulad ng Maute group at Abu Sayyaf.

Hindi na dapat maulit ang malagim na sinapit ng Marawi City at paghihirap na dinaranas ng mahigit 180,000 residente roon.

Masakit isipin para sa kanila na ang pasimuno sa pagkubkob sa siyudad



ay ang Maute brothers at kapamilya ng mga ito na taga-Marawi City rin.

Lumilitaw na matagal nang pinagplanuhan ng grupo ang pananakop sa siyudad bilang pagpapakita ng kanilang suporta sa ISIS.

Maging matalas dapat ang mga mata ng taumbayan sa anomang aktibidad na tulad ng isinagawa ng Maute group, ang

pangangalap ng pondo at armas at panghihikayat sa mga kabataan na magaklas.

Malaki ang maitutulong nating mga sibilyan sa pagbibigay ng mga impormasyon sa mga awtoridad tungkol sa mga kahi-na-hinalang mga gawain sa ating paligid.

Talasan natin ang mga mata laban sa mga terorista!

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## SANDIGAN, SANDALAN



### Ni Cong. RICKY SANDOVAL

TILA naging liwanag sa dilim ang salita ng Pangulong Duterte matapos niyang i-anunsyo na malaya na ang Marawi City matapos ang higit

148 na araw na bakbakan laban sa mga terorista.

Ginawa ang anunsyo matapos mapatay ng ating Armed Forces ang dalawang pinakamataas na lider ng Maute terrorist group.

Pero hindi naging madali ang ginawang pag-sugpo ng ating kasundaluan sa pwersa ng mga kalaban. Kahit na nasa 847 na kalaban ang napatay ng ating mga tropa, nalagasan naman tayo ng aabot 163 na magiging na sundalo at pulis.

Sa tala rin ng military, 47 ang napatay na sibilayan at tataas pa ang bilang na ito kapag sinimulan na nila ang mop-

ping up operation sa buong Marawi.

Pero mas mahirap na misyon ngayon ang kakaharapin ng ating pamahalaan. Ang rehabilitasyon ng lugar.

Sa ginawang presentasyon nga ni ARMM Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong ng Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Peacebuilding Plan, ilang taon at hindi lang buwan ang aabutin para tuluyang maayos ang Marawi. Hindi na ito nakakagulat dahil base nga sa mga larawan at videos sa lugar, halos nagiba na

# Bangon Marawi

ang lahat ng inprastruktura sa lungsod. Ang ilang nananatiling nakatayo naman ay tadtad na ng bala kaya hindi na ligtas gamiting muli.

Pero masaya ako na ibinahagi ni Assemblyman Zia Adiong na katuwang nila sa gagawing rehabilitasyon ang batikang arkitekto at urban planner na si Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr.

Ilan lang sa kilalang likha ni Arch. Palafox ang urban plan ng Dubai, La Mesa ecopark, ang mas maganda na ngayong QC Memorial Circle,

ang Rockwell sa Makati, ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Plan at marami pang iba.

Kaya kung meron man tayong dapat asahan sa bagong Marawi, ito ay ang pagiging world-class nito dahil sa pagtulong ng isa sa mga kilalang pangalan sa arkitektura at urban planning.

Pero sa gagawing rehabilitasyon ng Marawi, dapat ay isaalang-alang natin ang mga aral sa ginawang rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar ng tinamaan ng super typhoon Yolanda.

Lumalabas kasi sa ginawang imbestigasyon ng House Committee on Housing and Urban Development sa pangungunahan ni Chairman Albee Benitez na substandard ang ilang materyales sa shelter projects.

Isa sa mga nakita nilang anomalya ay ang paggamit ng contractor ng Yolanda housing projects ng mas mamnipis na bakal sa mga bahay taliwas sa itinakda ng National Housing Authority.

Kung nagkataon, baka ma-double whamby ang ating mga kababayan na minsan nang nawalan ng bahay dahil sa super typhoon at baka

mawalang muli dahil sa hindi dekalidad na construction materials.

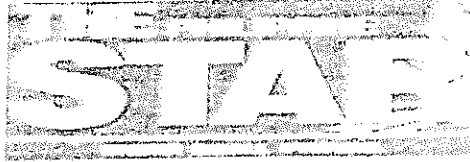
Mabuti na lang at matiyaga itong binubusi ng committee ni Cong. Albee Benitez para masigurong ligtas ang ating mga kababayang nabiktima ng kalamidad.

Sana ay matapos agad ang committee report at findings ng House Committee on Housing and Urban Development para magsilbing babala at gabay ng mga ahensyang magtatrabaho para sa Marawi City Rehabilitation.

(I-follow sa Twitter si Cong. Ricky Sandoval: @Rep\_Sandoval o i-like sa Facebook: @RickySandovalMalabon)



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## INTROSPECTIVE

TONY KATIGBAK

### Hope and rebuilding in Marawi

I have always been a strong supporter of our troops. It is important to give due respect and recognition to the brave men and women who put their safety and their lives on the line all in the name of protecting the country and our people from those that would seek to do us harm both outside the Philippines and within.



That is why I was amongst Filipinos who were very happy to hear that the country's most wanted militants, Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, are finally dead after roughly over five months of fighting in ravaged Marawi and so many lives lost. Just earlier last week, the Philippine military was able to confirm through DNA via the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Hapilon and Maute were killed via sniper fire in Marawi City putting an end to the scourge that threatened the citizens of the city and were among the FBI's most wanted terror suspects.

This is indeed an important victory and would not be possible without the huge sacrifices and dedication of our men in uniform. I remember the story of the young soldier who tried to save his comrades and who, when he knew he was facing death or capture, just told his commander to bomb his location. He was willing to sacrifice himself just so that he could take out some of the opposition at the same time.

Today though the tables have finally taken a turn for the better and President Duterte has declared that Marawi has been "liberated." This is definitely a cause for celebration. We all need to thank and honor our soldiers who were brave enough to defend our country against the IS backed Maute and Abu Sayyaf terror groups who were set on establishing an Islamic State (Daesh) in Mindanao. And of course alongside our gratitude we should also commiserate and remember all the lives lost

during the Marawi siege - the 200 soldiers and military personnel and the countless civilians who were caught in the crossfire. We should take this as the opportune time to extend a hand in need to the families of the fallen heroes and to those in Marawi trying to rebuild their lives.

The most pressing question of course is what happens now? This was a strong victory no doubt but there will definitely still be small pockets of resistance remaining. That is the ongoing problem in most battles against terrorists around the world. While there are leaders, these leaders are also usually not so important that they cannot and will not be replaced when lost. While I think we can celebrate that the main suspects have been taken down it's still important to note that it doesn't mean it is 100 percent over or 100 percent safe for Marawi just yet.

This is what the Palace confirmed also even while the pullout of troops has begun they are not discounting pocket skirmishes to continue as the military urge the last few remaining militants to surrender. The president admits that while a great victory has been won he is not removing all troops from the war ravaged Marawi until he can declare it completely safe once again. And that might take a little more time.

Still, it is comforting to get some good news for a change. It certainly has seemed like the Philippines has had its share of bad recently and any victory will surely feel like a balm on the country's frayed and frazzled nerves. Hopefully soon the people of Marawi can begin to focus on what comes next - rebuilding and regaining hope after this terrible time. The images of destruction from the fighting are terrible and it's going to be a long while before these bullet-ridden buildings and fire ravaged structures can be made whole again. However, the spirit of our people is resilient and I don't doubt that in time life will, hopefully, return to normal for those affected by

this terrible fight.

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## FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

### Heroes

According to one eyewitness account, people spilled out to the streets when they saw trucks and buses filled with soldiers moving up the road from Marawi to Cagayan de Oro. The exhausted soldiers were greeted with cheers and applause.



The spontaneous response from civilians must have been truly heartwarming for the troops. The last time I saw an adoring crowd mobbing soldiers like they were rock stars was during the EDSA Revolution. Many of the soldiers who valiantly fought to recover Marawi were not even born then.

The brave soldiers who fought in Marawi deserve all the accolades we are willing to give. They fought for the Republic. They battled a hardened band of terrorists without sufficient training and the equipment required to properly conduct urban warfare.

While the soldiers battled in Marawi, their effort was undermined by those enslaved by some obsolete version of political correctness. The Commission on Human Rights wanted to investigate them for "abuses." The AFP was criticized for the destruction to property that was unavoidable in this sort of warfare.

When the President declared the besieged city liberated, groups like Bayan Muna called it a hoax. The leftists could not imagine that our troops could win a battle and do so honorably.

To be fair, the AFP took every precaution to conduct this battle correctly. Saving the hostages, taken by the terrorists to be used as human shields, was always first priority. The mosques were respected and spared the bombing even as they were used as command and control centers by the terrorist force.

Taking into account cultural sensibilities, the AFP deployed female soldiers to the checkpoints to pat down the women. The soldiers were instructed to treat the local population with respect. Freed hostages were debriefed carefully and civilly.

Our soldiers paid with their lives to do things correctly. They engaged an enemy that used human shields. Yet they were under instruction not to fire at the human shields even if it meant sparing an enemy fighter.

Given the intensity of the fighting, hostage casualties were surprisingly low. Even as the fighting was winding down, the troops were still rescuing hostages.

As this is being written, the latest report estimated the ISIS "stragglers" to number no more than 30, all of them presumably hungry and low on ammunition. They were trapped in a single building with no hope of escape. Even at that late stage, our troops left avenues open for the wives of terrorists who were in the scene of battle to step out and surrender.

War is always brutal. Yet from every indication, the AFP tried to wage this with as much civility as possible. The institution should be praised for that.

Although lacking in the proper equipment, the AFP was as professional as any military organization could be. They kept the public abreast of the situation with clear and prompt briefings. If the battle took this long, it was because the AFP tried to keep collateral damage low.

When troops died from friendly fire, there was no effort to cover up the tragic incidents. As the fighting began to wind down, military spokesmen spoke frankly of the tactical mistakes committed and the adjustments necessary.

For instance, our troops tried using mortars early in this battle and then realized these were useless against the thick concrete walls of the structures in the city center. These structures were built strong precisely to protect their residents from gunfights. They were used to full advantage by the terrorists who could only be dislodged by artillery and aerial bombardment.

Kibitzers, bleeding hearts and the usual roll of critics, early in the battle to recover Marawi, called on government forces to stop the bombings. If their call were heeded, the war would go on forever. They knew nothing of the dictates of the situation on the ground. They were merely trying to score political points in the midst of a serious battle.

There are a hundred stories of heroism and exceptional courage that need to be told and retold. There is the one about the Scout Ranger captain killed because he returned to rescue his trapped comrades. There is the sergeant, finding himself hopelessly surrounded by the terrorists, called for artillery fire right at his position. Then there are the innumerable wounded soldiers who returned to the frontline as soon as they could walk.

The elite Scout Rangers were among the first thrown into the battle. They are the first to be removed after the President declared the city liberated. After a brief period of rest and recuperation, they return to intensive training to hone their skills in urban warfare.

Our best fighting units are traditionally trained in jungle warfare. Now they have to train and acquire the equipment for urban warfare. We need more than a few hundred more sniper rifles. We need thermal imaging equipment, night vision tools and all the assorted technologies for fighting from one building to the next.

Urban warfare is close quarter engagement. It requires shorter assault rifles, small explosives to blast through walls, intense drone surveillance of the enemy. Our armored vehicles proved vulnerable to rocket launched grenades and improvised explosive devices. They will have to be redesigned.

There are a thousand lessons learned from the Marawi engagement. Our troops will no doubt take all of them into account.

For the moment, however, we need to celebrate the heroism of our troops. No one fled from the fighting and none panicked under heavy fire.

We have a better army than we might have estimated.

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

## ONLINE NEWS

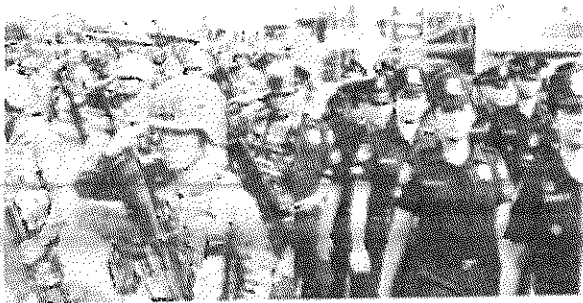
24 OCTOBER 2017

www.dwdd.com.ph

# PENSION SYSTEM | HOR tackles reforms in Retirement Benefits of Uniformed services

Reported by Alvin Santiago

**HOR COMPLEX, Quezon City (DWDD)** – A technical working group (TWG) of the House committees on government enterprises and privatization and on national defense and security this week started consolidating two measures seeking to reform the retirement benefit and pension system of the seven major uniformed services of the government.



TWG head Rep. Mark Go (Lone District, Baguio City), said President Rodrigo Duterte himself emphasized the need to reform the benefits and pension system of the uniformed services in his budget message to Congress for fiscal year 2017.

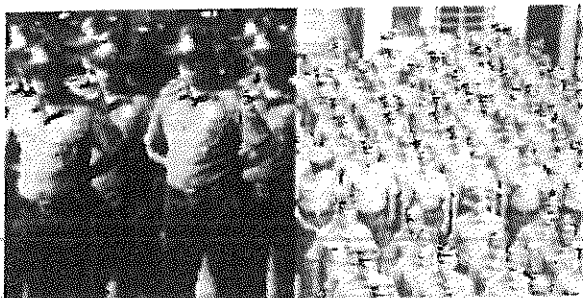
Go said the bills aim to address the many concerns of the major uniformed services of the government.

The seven major uniformed services are the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).

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



The TWG is harmonizing House Bills 1137 and 5673 filed by Reps. Gary Alejano (Party list, Magdalo) and Francisco Jose Matugas (1st District, Surigao del Norte), respectively. The bills are both titled "Unified Uniformed Personnel Retirement Benefits and Pension Reform Act."

The bills provide that the State duly recognizes the vital role of the uniformed services in providing internal and external security, promoting peace and order, ensuring public safety and further strengthening local government capability aimed towards the effective delivery of basic services to the citizenry.

The State also recognizes the extraordinary hazards, risks, perils and dangers the uniformed personnel of the uniformed services encounter in the performance of their duties.

It shall therefore be the prime concern of the State to provide all uniformed with personnel adequate remuneration and benefits, including retirement benefits and pension. To this end, the State shall ensure that the retirement benefits and pension scheme of the uniformed personnel is secure, reliable and sustainable.

The bills provide that existing retirees and future retirees of the uniformed services shall be entitled to receive a monthly retirement pay equivalent to two-and-a-half percent for each year of active service rendered, but not exceeding 90 percent of the monthly base and longevity pay of the grade next higher than the permanent grade last held, amending Section 17 of Presidential Decree 1638 also known as "Establishing A New System Of Retirement And Separation For Military Personnel Of The Armed Forces Of The Philippines" issued in 1979 by former President Marcos.

All new entrants, who at the time of their actual retirement, are eligible to receive retirement benefits and pension under existing laws applicable to the uniformed services, shall be entitled to receive their lump sum benefit equivalent to three years within one month of their effective date of retirement.

All uniformed personnel who are disabled in the line of duty shall be eligible to receive a monthly pension, the rates of which shall be determined by the respective department concerned.

The bills seek to provide a new fund-sourcing scheme for the unified retirees' pension and benefits that is sustainable in the long term.

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They mandate the creation of a Uniformed Personnel Retirement Fund (UPRF) to be managed by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for the sustainability of the retirement benefits and pension of uniformed personnel.

The GSIS shall create a new department which shall exclusively administer the UPRF.

Upon the effectivity of the Act, it shall be mandatory for new entrants to contribute a percentage of their monthly compensation as personal share and for the national government to contribute a corresponding share sourced from the general appropriations for the maintenance of the UPRF.

The additional funding for the maintenance of the UPRF shall be sourced from the sale or disposition of public lands, as may be authorized by the President.

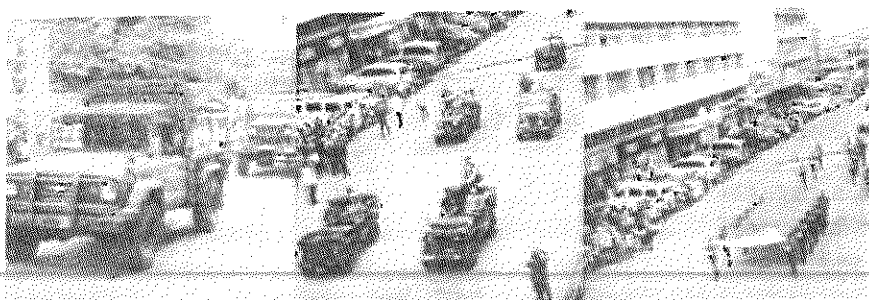
During the hearing, representatives of the seven major uniformed services presented their respective retirement and pension system. **CONGRESS/MCAG**

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# HONORING HEROES | 78IB joins Tacloban City Liberation Day

Alvin Santiago

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte (DWDD) – Personnel of the 546<sup>th</sup> Engineering Construction Battalion; together with troops from 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; Reserve Officers Training Course Students of the 804<sup>th</sup> CDC, 8<sup>th</sup> RCDG, ARESKOM; Tactical Operations Group 8, Philippine Air Force; Naval Station Dioscoro Papa, Philippine Navy; Police Regional Office 8, PNP Tacloban; Bureau of Fire Protection; Bureau of Jail Management and Penology; Philippine Coast Guard; the Local Government Unit and other government agencies participated in the parade around downtown area of Tacloban City in connection with the Tacloban City World War II Veterans Day and 73<sup>rd</sup> Liberation Day Celebration held last October 19, 2017. **MCAG**



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## **MAJOR VICTORY | 20 Maute Stragglers Neutralized, Dr Mahmud possibly among killed**

By **ANNE ANDRÉS**

**CAMP RANAO, Marawi City (DWDD)** – Authorities are in the middle of confirming the death of Malaysian terrorist Dr Mahmud Ahmad alias Dr. Mahmud who is said to be among the twenty (20) stragglers of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group killed last week in Marawi City.

Ahmad is reportedly being groomed to replace Isnilon Hapilon as Islamic State Emir in Southeast Asia. He was seen in a video alongside Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute brothers plotting the Marawi siege. He studied in Pakistan and learned to make explosives in an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan. He left Malaysia in 2014.

He was said to be in the company of the last 29 remnants of the Maute group, together with six to eight foreign fighters.

According to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, they are conducting DNA testing on the cadavers recovered in the latest encounter to identify if Mahmud was among the fatalities, after former hostages confirmed the death of the Malaysian.

In the same operation, government forces sustained six wounded personnel, most of them with minor injuries.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the AFP's Joint Task Force Ranao, DNA samples of the cadavers have already been taken and sent for examination, the same process that confirmed the death of Hapilon.

Brawner added that if Dr Mahmud is among those killed in the last operation, it will be a major blow to the aspiration of the Maute-ASG group to establish an Islamic Caliphate in Mindanao, similar to what transpired in Iraq and Syria but are failing rapidly.

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

Despite the pocket resistance being put up by Maute remnants, they are confined in an area less than a hectare area in size or about 15 to 20 small structures located inside the main battle area. **AES/JTFRANAO/MCAG**