

Army Vision: By 2028, 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

10 September 2017

Sunday

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

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

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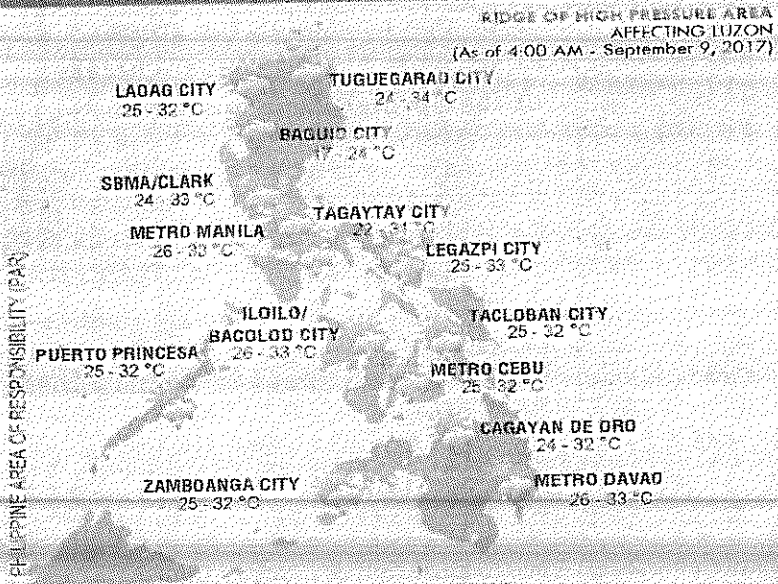




PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST - SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING LUZON
(As of 4:00 AM - September 9, 2017)




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:45 AM	6:01 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:12 PM	9:05 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
SEP 6 3:03 PM	SEP 13 2:04 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
6:25 AM	12:53 PM
0.31 Meter	0.84 Meter


Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	SEP 9	SEP 10	SEP 11	SEP 12
METRO MANILA	25-32°C	24-32°C	23-31°C	22-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	24-33°C	24-32°C	26-32°C	25-32°C
LAOAG	25-32°C	24-31°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
BAGUIO	16-24°C	16-23°C	26-33°C	26-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	24-33°C	24-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
TAGAYTAY				
LEGAZPI				
PUERTO PRINCESA				
ILOILO/BACOLOD				
METRO CEBU				
TACLOBAN				
CAGAYAN DE ORO				
METRO DAVAO				
ZAMBOANGA				



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

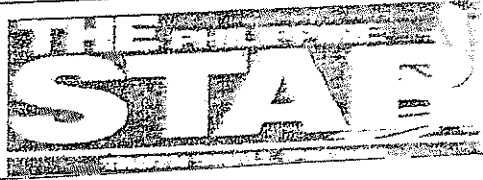




SAGOT NG PAGALA NG

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

10 September 2017



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Duterte set to release Trillanes bank deposits

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte will soon give his nemesis Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV a dose of his own medicine, as he threatened to expose the latter's alleged wealth hidden in foreign bank accounts.

"Akala mo ikaw lang? Kaya ko rin (You think you're the only one? I can do it also)," the President said, twitting Trillanes, in his speech during the closing ceremony of the Mindanao Business Conference held in Cagayan de Oro City last night.

Trillanes has been hitting the President and his family for over a year now, alleging ill-gotten wealth and the involvement of presidential son Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte and son-in-law Manases Carpio in the smuggling

Turn to Page 2

mess at the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

The Chief Executive, however, said the opposition senator also has huge amounts

of money kept in various foreign bank accounts, aside from money held in domestic accounts.

"I have Trillanes' bank accounts in Hong Kong, China, Australia and the US," Duterte said, adding he is

just gathering more information on these bank accounts abroad.

The President insinuated that Trillanes' money in foreign bank accounts would show they are "ill-gotten."

Shortly before the May 9, 2016 elections, Trillanes alleged that Duterte has over P211 million in bank deposits, which was amassed during the latter's term as mayor of Davao City.

The senator recently linked the younger Duterte and Carpio to the so-called "Davao group" that allegedly influences the release of contraband without being checked at the BOC.

He even accused the vice mayor of being a member of the Chinese triad that engages in international smuggling and drug trade.

In the hearing of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee on the P6.4-billion shabu shipment from China and BOC corruption last Thursday, Duterte and Carpio appeared and denied allegations



Trillanes

that they were involved in smuggling activities.

Broker and whistle-blower Mark Taguba also cleared Duterte and Carpio of any involvement in the issues at the BOC.

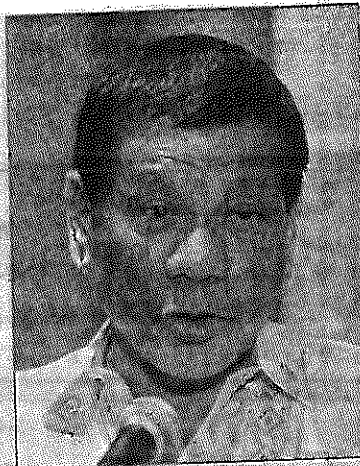
The President has repeatedly said that all he needs is concrete evidence linking his son to smuggling and he would immediately step down from office.

Trillanes: Duterte needs psychiatric help

Meanwhile, Trillanes yesterday advised Duterte to immediately seek psychiatric help for he is starting to lose his mind

Reacting to the latest statements made by the President against him, including advising members of the military and the police to challenge him to a duel, Trillanes said it was clear to him that Duterte is feeling the pressure and panicking, making him lose his mind as a result.

"These are the words of



Duterte

someone who is no longer thinking and that is why I said that he is having a meltdown," Trillanes said.

He added that the President is probably stressing out over the responsibilities of his office, the proof already being presented in public about his illegal activities, which makes the senator question the Chief Executive's psychological capacity to govern the country.

"This is not how a sane person speaks. Our people have reason to be concerned," Trillanes said.

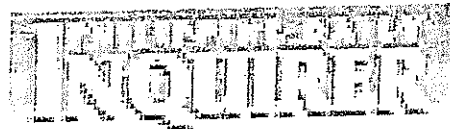
During his speech at the Araw ng Digos celebration last Friday, Duterte also showed a gun tucked in his waist and even claimed that it was not licensed.

Trillanes advised the Presidential Security Group (PSG) to disarm the President because an insane person cannot be allowed to carry a gun.

Trillanes said that the PSG would be held accountable if the President ends up shooting himself or someone else.

- With Marvin Sy

10 September 2017



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DU30 SAYS TRILLANES HIDING MONEY ABROAD

STORY BY JIGGER JERUSALEM AND ALLAN NAWAL

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—President Duterte yesterday accused his toughest critic, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, of hiding money in bank accounts overseas. Mr. Duterte said the senator's "bank deposits (are) all over." Trillanes has denied the accusations and called the President a liar. "That's fake news," he said.

A2

FROM A1

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—President Duterte yesterday unleashed what could be his bid to turn the tables on his toughest critic, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, saying he has proof the senator hid money in bank accounts overseas.

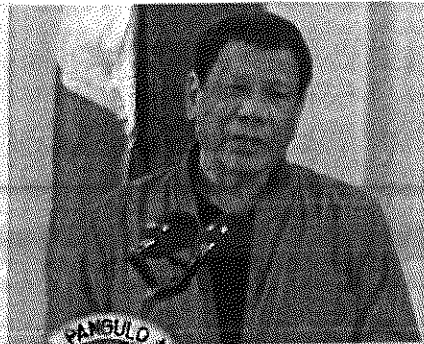
Just as Mr. Duterte made the accusation, photos of supposed bank documents circulated showing remittances of \$50 to accounts supposedly owned by Trillanes in banks in Switzerland and Canada.

One photo showed a \$50 remittance from Taishin International Bank to an account with number 90275/9921320 supposedly under Trillanes' name in UBS Bank in Zurich.

Another photo showed another \$50 remittance from Taishin International Bank to an account under Trillanes' name in Nova Scotia Bank in Toronto.

The same details—a \$50 remittance from Taishin—were in another photo that supposedly showed an account under Trillanes' name in Deutsche Bank in Geneva.

The same photos appeared in the blog of Mocha Uson, entertainer and ardent supporter of Mr. Duterte, but sources said they had been taken down because Uson had preempted the President's revelation.



GOTCHA In his speech at the Mindanao Business Conference in Cagayan de Oro, President Duterte says "Trillanes' money is all over."

—JIGGER J. JERUSALEM

Sought for comment about the alleged foreign deposits, the senator said in a text message: "That's not true. That's fake news. Duterte is a liar."

Trillanes dared the President to provide specific details about the accounts.

"I challenge him to come out with details and I will promptly sign a (bank) waiver so that the truth will come out," Trillanes said.

He had previously said in reference to Uson's blog that the Duterte administration had resorted to falsification to bring him down.

The accusation was the latest

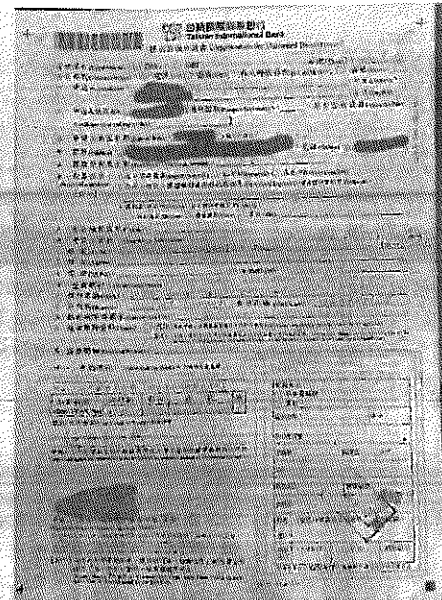


Photo of alleged remittance to Trillanes bank account

episode in the President's rage against Trillanes, who had accused Mr. Duterte, his son, Paolo, and son-in-law Mans Carpio of keeping unexplained wealth in several bank accounts in the Philippines.

Trillanes' money, Mr. Duterte said, were "all over." "Hong Kong, Australia, America," the President said at a speech during the closing ceremony for the 26th Mindanao Business Con-

ference (MBC) in Cagayan de Oro.

Mr. Duterte said Trillanes owned the accounts jointly with a Chinese businessman who was not identified by the President. A source said the businessman was engaged in trucking and had a business address in Metro Manila.

The President said he would be "coming up" with evidence to show Trillanes' "bank deposits all over."

Shortly after saying that, Mr. Duterte said he was already in possession of some of the pieces of evidence.

"Now I got them," the President said. Trillanes, he said, "thought I cannot do it."

"So I am giving you in a few days the number of deposits that he has with a Chinese, joint accounts," Mr. Duterte said.

In his speech at the MBC, the President repeated his pledge to fight corruption because he detested it.

"There will be no corruption in my government," said Mr. Duterte at the business forum.

'Favorite target'

He said during the campaign period, he already challenged those accusing him and his children of corruption to present evidence.

Recalling a presentation made by his rivals in the presidential election, Mr. Duterte said "they were hoisting

the slide" that he and his son, Paolo, had P200 million hidden in banks.

"We were the favorite target," he said. He said his challenge to accusers remained the same—search for the ill-gotten wealth "up to the rural banks of Tawi-Tawi if there is one."

"Find that money and if it's there, I will withdraw my candidacy," the President said, repeating his campaign promise.

Nothing, however, had been found because he was not corrupt, Mr. Duterte said.

"Now I gave you my commitment when I won, there will be no corruption," he said.

The President said if anyone could present a case of corruption against his children that was not hearsay, "I'm willing to resign immediately."

"There will be no corruption and everybody has to follow, even in Mindanao," he said.

He also threatened to abolish government agencies that had been abusive in use of funds.

Without mentioning names, he said one government official had hired consultants for P200,000 a month which he said was a form of corruption.

"Nothing will happen to this country if we let corruption flourish," the President added. —JIGGER JERUSALEM AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

September 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A1

MILITARY UNDER PRESSURE TO END WAR BEFORE MARTIAL LAW EXPIRES AS TERRORISTS INFILTRATE OTHER AREAS

UNQUANTIFIABLE' COST OF MARAWI SIEGE

BY RENE AGOSTA

WITH the surging cost of the war and the security threat posed by the reported continuing buildup and massing of other Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorist groups in other parts of Mindanao, the military is hard-pressed to end the Marawi City siege the soonest possible.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año has already assured that the terrorists' juggernaut into the city will be over before he retires on October 26, a compelling reason for the soldiers to go for a "quick fix" even before the deadline.

The siege, staged by the Maute-IS group while top defense and military officials were in Russia officially "cavorting" with their Moscow counterparts, flared up under Año's term, making it his greatest challenge to end and cap his career respectably.

In ending the Maute-IS siege even before the deadline, the battle-weary military could stop the

depletion of its modest funds and give it the opportunity to refocus its attention on dealing with the challenges posed by the other IS-inspired groups.

It would also negate the possible tilting, or the further building up, of support by other Moro groups and even by the war-affected civilians, who have been yearning desperately to return even to their ruined homes.

Likewise, it should lend the soldiers an added time to deal with all of the other existing security threat groups in the region before the expiration of the extended martial rule, whose ultimate goal,

CONTINUED ON A2

CONTINUED FROM A1

as spelled out, is to end Mindanao's security problem.

Too modest

AS early as last month, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana estimated that the military could have already used roughly P2.5 billion to P3 billion in financing and sustaining its operations against the Maute-IS group in Marawi.

He said the amount was taken from the funds that have been earmarked for other projects of the defense department.

However, a military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Lorenzana's estimate is very low if not too modest, especially that the secretary himself has also admitted that the cost still excludes the expenses of the Air Force.

The ongoing operations in Marawi involve the Army, the Marines and the Air Force, which tapped its air assets for the bombing operations.

"The estimate is very low, if not modest, as it only talked about the land forces. Compared with the foot soldier, when an Air Force pilot moves, he takes along with him a crew, a plane and bombs that he uses; it's a war machine," the military official said.

The operation in Marawi, which has entered its fourth month, is showcasing the assets of the Air Force and their uses.

The official said the cost of the

war, as of this writing, still cannot be quantified.

"It's unquantifiable, especially if you look now at the picture of Marawi City and the displaced residents," he said.

Malacañang has already set aside as much as P20 billion for the rehabilitation of the war-torn city, with the amount to be released in three tranches until 2019.

Cost of rehab

LORENZANA said rebuilding the besieged city of Marawi could cost about P56 billion (\$1.1 billion).

Months of fighting between Philippine troops and Islamic State-led militants have left the once-vibrant city on the southern island of Mindanao a virtual ghost town, displacing more than 230,000 people.

"There's a need to rebuild the infrastructure, provide social assistance to those traumatized by the war, restock Armed Forces ammunition and replenish its funding," Lorenzana said in a September 5 interview, adding that he expects the conflict to be over within three weeks.

At least 770 people have been killed since fighting began on May 23, when hundreds of militants laid siege to the city, prompting President Duterte to declare martial law. As the conflict dragged on, the cost has mounted and the most recent estimate is equal to more than a third of the budget for defense this year.

Lorenzana said current estimates indicated that P50 billion would be needed for the rehabilitation of Marawi City. Up to P3 billion had already been spent by the military since fighting began, and another P3 billion for social welfare and other services, he said.

The government may need to ask lawmakers for an additional P10-billion budget this year to start reconstruction. On top of that, an estimated P7.5 billion is needed to hire 20,000 soldiers and 10,000 police, he added.

He said that for every 10,000 soldiers, the government would need at least P2.5 billion a year to train and equip, compared with the P4-billion projection of Año.

The government this week announced it plans to sell P30 billion of bonds in the fourth quarter to help fund Marawi's reconstruction.

Other groups

THE "protracted" operations against the terrorists in Marawi prompted other groups inspired by the IS to consolidate and make their presence felt in other parts of Mindanao, particularly in Maguindanao.

One of these groups is a faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) under Commanders Salahuddin Hassan alias Commander Salah and Esmail Abdulmalik.

The faction, known as Jamaatu al-Muhajireen wal Ansar, has pledged its allegiance to the IS.

During the past weeks, Hassan



PRESIDENT Duterte addresses troops during his visit to the 2nd Mechanized Brigade on May 26, 2017, on the outskirts of Iligan City. At left is Armed Forces chief and martial-law administrator Gen. Eduardo Año and at center is Defense Chief Delfin Lorenzana. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

and his men, who have been displaying IS emblems, attempted to saunter and make their presence known in the municipalities of Mamasapano, Sharif Saidona, Datu Unsay and Datu Saudi in Maguindanao.

The Army has, however, thwarted the group's attempt to establish bases in the municipalities.

On the other hand, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), with the support of Army troops, is fighting to boot out the group of Abdulmalik in remote barangays of Datu Salibu, also in Maguindanao.

A total of 50 fighters from both sides have been killed in the skirmishes. Early this week, the military carried out a series of airstrikes against Abdulmalik and his men, killing at least 10 terrorists.

Reinforcements?

AS the government fends off terror activities by the IS-inspired faction of the BIFF, the MILF also reported the presence of at least 100 terrorists in the town of Buldon, also in Maguindanao.

It was President Duterte who

first broke the news on the presence of IS fighters in Buldon, although local officials initially dismissed it, claiming the Commander in Chief must be referring to Mount Cararao, which sits between Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

Amid this massing by other terror groups, terrorists were also occasionally attempting to reinforce their cornered colleagues in Marawi, as evidenced by the killings recently of 10 armed men who were entering the city by way of Lake Lanao.

10 September 2017

The Manila Times

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Army now accepting NPA applicants

CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan De Oro City: The Philippine Army is now hitting new members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including regular members of the New People's Army (NPA), with no questions asked.

Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesman of the Army's Fourth Infantry Division here, said newly installed Division Commander Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva has issued the directive.

He said the new applicants will no longer undergo rigid background check and the usual military training provided they are regular members of the NPA.

"Any regular member of the NPA could now report to the nearest military outpost in Northern and Northeastern Mindanao at their convenience," Martinez told *The Manila Times*.

He said that the rebels who want to be directly enlisted into the AFP must bring their firearms and should come in batches of not less than 10 individuals.

"If the rebels would come down in tens together with their firearms, there would be no

questions asked in the processing of their enlistment into the military," Martinez said.

He added the NPAs who would be enlisted into the AFP would undergo training - more on the administrative side - on AFP operations.

According to Martinez, the military can determine if the applicant rebel is authentic because their names and identities are in the Order of Battle. "We (military) will know if they are authentic NPAs or a bunch of bandits," he said.

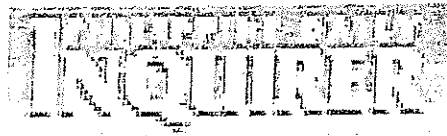
He said the NPA who would be enlisted into the AFP would have the rank of Private and would be entitled to a monthly salary and other benefits enjoyed by any regular AFP member.

He added the military has monitored that some NPA regulars in the Caraga region are now trying to establish contact with military units.

Caraga is in Northeastern Mindanao and is comprised of Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur and Dinagat Island.

CRIS DIAZ

10 September 2017



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Army to secure 'private' Marcos birthday bash

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

The Philippine Army will secure the "private" celebration of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' birth centennial at Libingan ng mga Bayani on Monday.

The Marcoses have invited

government officials, family friends and diplomats to the birth centennial of the strongman.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs division chief, explained on Friday that the Army, as the physical cus-

todian of the heroes' cemetery, would have to handle the security measures for the "private event."

"The Marcos family has formally sent word of their plan to celebrate President Marcos' 100th birthday and they also sent their wish for the event to

be private," Arevalo told reporters at a press briefing.

The AFP public affairs chief disclosed that a number of media outfits had asked to set up equipment to cover the celebration, but their requests were "gracefully declined" by the Marcos family. INQ

10 September 2017



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Australia to send more troops to Phl vs terrorists

By JAIME LAUDE

Visiting Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne disclosed on Friday that Australia would send troops to assist Philippine forces in the ongoing battle against Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists in Marawi City.

Small contingents of Australian soldiers will be sent to train Filipino troops, Payne said during a press conference with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

"We are very committed to supporting the Philippines in its efforts to defend itself against terrorist threats," Payne said.

"This is a threat to the region (that) we all need to work together to defeat."

Lorenzana welcomed the offer of Australia to train Filipino soldiers to combat terrorism.

"I think it doesn't matter really if they give us those token force but the effect of the kind of help that they give us is enormous. I think

that's what we need to talk about... bigger involvement or support from Australia," Lorenzana said.

But he stressed that when the Australian soldiers are in the country, they will be staying inside military camps and will not be allowed to engage in actual fighting.

Payne and Lorenzana discussed various security issues in the region, including the brewing tension brought about by the threat from North Korea and the ongoing terrorist atrocities in Marawi City.

Under the agreed Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA), Australia has provided the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) two P3 Orion surveillance planes to help government forces track down and fight the Maute-IS terrorists in Marawi City.

Payne said her meeting with Lorenzana would further widen the defense and military cooperation between the two long-time allies.

"I think it's important to recognize that this is in effect an engagement in long term cooperation... which is about recognizing that the challenge we face from terrorists in this region is going to be exacerbated by the potential of returning foreign fighters who have been in the Middle East in the midst of the most extremist terrorism behavior of the world has seen in a very long time," Payne said.

She said these returning foreign fighters are battle hardened, well trained and are very determined.

To confront the security challenges from these terrorists, all forces in the region must deal with mili-

tants jointly, as she emphasized that each country in the region must invest in military cooperation and mutual engagement.

"We are very committed to supporting the Philippines in its efforts to defend itself against the terrorist threats not only because we support our friend, but because it is important for Australia as well," she said.

The Maute terrorists attacked Marawi last May 23 and have held parts of it despite sustained ground attacks by hundreds of soldiers and daily pummeling by planes and artillery.

The southern Philippines has been marred for decades by insurgency and banditry. But the intensity of the battle in Marawi and the presence of foreign fighters fighting alongside local militants have

raised concerns that the region may be becoming a Southeast Asian hub for IS as it loses ground in Iraq and Syria.

The Australian troops will compliment those from their country already sent to the Philippines to train local personnel, Payne said.

Philippine troops fighting IS-linked rebels in a southern city have encountered armed resistance from women and children who were likely family members of militants, the Philippine military said on Monday.

A spokesman for Payne said further details of the training contingent would be determined in coming days.

Lorenzana stressed that the

AFP has sufficient troops to do the fighting against the terrorists in Marawi City.

"It would not look good if we will need foreign troops to fight the war here. We are happy with the assistance that we are getting from Australia, the P3 Orions. If they can send small detachment of Australian troops to stay in the bases to train our people maybe in information gathering, information analysis, that will be enough actually," he said.

- With Reuters, AFP

10 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Australia to help PH fight Maute

By **REUTERS** and **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

Australia will send troops to assist Philippine forces in the ongoing battle against Islamic State-inspired Maute

Group in Marawi City, Australia's Defense Minister Marise Payne said.

Small contingents of Australian soldiers will be sent to train Philippine troops, Payne said during a press conference with her Philippines' coun-

terpart Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in Manila.

"We are very committed to supporting the Philippines in its efforts to defend itself against terrorist threats," Minister Payne said.

"This is a threat to the region that we all need to work together to defeat."

Lorenzana said the Australian troops will train with their Filipino counterparts within the confines of

Philippine military bases. He made it clear that Australian troops will not join in the fight against Maute terrorists in Marawi.

"It would not look good if we will be needing them to fight the war ▶9

here," Lorenzana said, stressing that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has enough troops to fight the Maute terrorists.

Payne, who met with Lorenzana, said what they talked about is the deployment of small batch or batches of Australian Defense Force (ADF) teams that could help the AFP in specialized trainings dealing with terrorism.

"I think it's important to recognize that this is in effect an engagement in long term cooperation which is about recognizing that the challenge we face from terrorists in this region is going to be exacerbated by the potential of returning foreign fighters, people who have been in the Middle East in the midst of the most extremist terrorism behaviour of the world has seen in a very long time," Payne said.

Payne, however, clarified that the trainings are still in the planning stage.

"I think as the secretary (pointed out) we will have our officials task to do the planning, that is a part of that and that sort of information will be finalized in that process and we'll be advising in due course but not today," she said.

Payne said having joint military exercises with the Philippines is no longer new to Australia considering the existence of an effective defense program between the two countries.

Lorenzana also took the opportunity to thank the Australian government for the assistance it provided to the Philippine military, especially the P3 Orions.

"We are happy with the assistance that we are getting from Australia, the P3 Orions

and if they can send small detachment of Australian troops to train with our troops inside our bases," he said.

"I think the help that we are getting from Australia is huge in terms of the help that they have been providing our troops on the ground. So I think it doesn't matter really if they give us those token of, token force. But the effect that they will give to our... the support or the kind of help that they will give to us is enormous, I think that's what we need to talk about, bigger involvement or support from Australia," he said.

The Maute Group swept through Marawi on May 23 and have held parts of it despite sustained ground attacks by hundreds of soldiers and daily

pummeling by planes and artillery.

Inching closer

Military forces continue to inch toward the remaining strongholds of the terrorist group in a final push to drive away the ISIS-inspired gunmen in the once bustling Islamic City in Mindanao.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP information officer, said that the Maute forces continue to diminish based on the assessment and information they have been receiving from ground commanders.

"We continue our assault against the enemy's remaining positions that are gradually reduced daily. Their defenses as well as their strength continue to wane," said Arevalo.

What slows down the military operation, according to Arevalo, is the presence of civilian hostages which, he said, are being used as human shields by the remaining Maute Group forces.

The official said they are also receiving report that the hostages are being forced to fight with the soldiers by arming them with guns to make it appear that they are their fighters.

"We are still very mindful of the presence of civilian hostages," said Arevalo.

Forty-five civilians have died since the start of the gun battle on May 23. Almost all of the victims were either executed by the Maute Group or caught in the crossfire.

But Arevalo said they expect more civilian casualties once they enter the main battle zone.

He recalled that soldiers have been recovering bodies of civilians each time they retake major battle zones in the city.

"We are expecting to retrieve more victims of the Maute-ISIS group when we proceed to the main battle area, parts of it laden with mines, booby traps and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)," said Arevalo.

Aside from civilian casualties, 655 Maute members have been killed, according to military data.

On the part of the government, a total of 145 soldiers and policemen have been killed while more than 1,000 were wounded.

The military could not say when the fighting would end. Martial law, which was implemented on May 23, remains in effect in the entire Mindanao. (With a report from Aaron B. Recuenco)

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AFP beefs up efforts to ensure safer roadways in Marawi City

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) the other day assured that the government is doubling its efforts in ensuring the safety of roadways after a civilian died of a stray bullet near the Mindanao State University (MSU).

"Our local Crisis Committee in Marawi, together with our Task Force Group Lanao under General Rey, are working doubly hard to ensure the safety of some specific roadways that have figured in some incidents, particularly yesterday (Thursday), when a member of a government agency was hit by a stray bullet," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr said during the regular Mindanao Hour briefing in Malacañang.

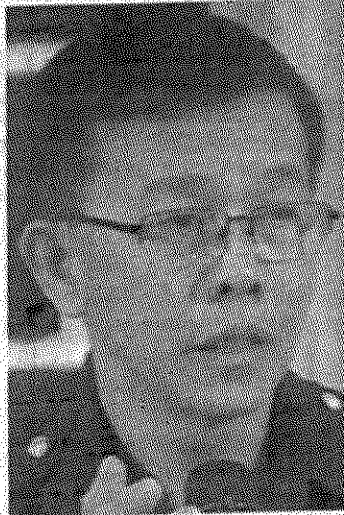
"The gate of MSU where this incident occurred has been closed and traffic along that thoroughfare has been rerouted to safer areas as a result of this development," Padilla said.

Padilla added that Task Force Group Lanao has beefed up its forces in the area, especially around MSU, and will provide additional men to ensure the safety of motorists and residents in those particular areas that figured in the incident, adding that classes in a nearby private school were also suspended following the incident.

Padilla, however, said classes at the MSU will continue because the area is well-secured.

"There are forces that are detailed there to conduct checkpoints and to ensure that no groups will be able to penetrate from a safe distance," he said.

The AFP spokesman, meanwhile, said the area where the Maute rebels remain confined has already been reduced to about 20 hectares.



PADILLA

"Fighting has been very fierce. It has been at close quarter battle in the area. But our forces are determined and are focused to seek to end this rebellion as soon as possible," Padilla assured.

Padilla added that they received word from the ground that only one of the seven Maute brothers remains alive.

"We got word from the commander on the ground, Lieutenant General (Carlito) Galvez, and as you have been hearing the last few days, they have reason to believe that only one of the Maute brothers remains in the fight, and this is Omar," he said.

Padilla, however, said that the AFP has yet to recover the bodies of the other Maute members and subject them to DNA testing before they could issue a categorical statement.

He noted, however, that various information made available to the troops, including revelations from rescued hostages, point to this development.

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MARAWI WAR COSTING BILLIONS

By Alfred Dalizon

THE battle for Marawi City which has been ongoing since May 23 has not only left more than 651 militants, 45 civilians and 145 soldiers and policemen dead but also cost the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police more than P3 billion worth of war expenses for artillery shells, grenades, rockets and bullets needed to pound the enemy positions over the past 109 days.

The war in Marawi City which has forced nearly half-a-million people to flee to safer places is also taking a toll on the military and the police armaments with the AFP saying it has spent P3 billion so far to battle the terrorist and thus needs more money to continue the fight.

"The cash register is clicking daily as the fighting goes on, and this will be costly for our government," said AFP spokesman, Brigadier General Restituto Padilla Jr.

"This is why our government has seen it fit to provide the Armed Forces of the Philippines additional funds to allow us to secure the things we will need to finish this fight," he added.

Padilla said the military would need P1 billion more to replenish munitions, fuel and other materials in the war effort, but gave no timetable for the campaign.

The PNP is yet to say how much it has spent in trying to restore normalcy in Marawi City and other parts of the South which was placed under martial law by President Duterte last May.

However, the cost is high considering the fact that police without firing any shots have spent hundreds of millions alone in guarding major events in Metro Manila like the papal visit, the Miss Universe pageant, the APEC and ASEAN summits and the Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo.

In Marawi, government funds is needed to procure food supplies, gasoline and other basic needs of the soldiers and policemen who are currently preparing for "one final push" against the IS-inspired bandits, the majority said to have been confined to a small portion of the once lively but now war-ravaged Marawi City.

"The cost of the war in Marawi City is tremendous particularly on the part of the government which

needs to take very good care of our soldiers and policemen who are out there in the field," a high-ranking security official told the Journal Group on condition of anonymity.

He was referring to the tens of thousands of M-16 and machinegun ammunition, artillery rounds, rockets from helicopter gunships and bombs from war planes unleashed by the Armed Forces against the Maute Group since May 23.

The official said that troops in Marawi City are being given almost daily fresh munitions which will require the AFP to make additional procurements in the future.

Sending more reinforcements to Marawi City also requires additional funding since these soldiers and policemen have to be airlifted or shipped to the war zone.

The budget for the deployment includes money needed to buy food, water, medicine and other provisions for the troops as well as fuel for tanks, helicopter gunships, combat planes, transport carriers and ambulances dispatched to pick the dead or the wounded.

Money is also being spent to treat the hundreds of soldiers and policemen who have been maimed or wounded by Maute super fire or improvised explosives they have planted in some parts of the city to derail the advance of the troops.

The AFP and the PNP are yet to give a current tally of their expenses in Marawi City.

However, an M-16 ammunition alone costs around P25-30 each while an artillery round is about US\$1,500.

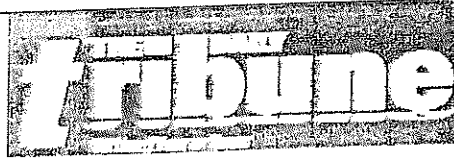
There is no official report on the cost of a rocket fired by an Air Force helicopter gunship or a bomb dropped by a combat plane.

However, the AFP and the PNP are known to pay less than the commercial price being offered by munitions manufacturers here and abroad.

Journal Group sources said that if the AFP and the PNP have spent an average of P1 million alone to arm, feed and ferry troops in Marawi City alone, the amount would be P104 million over the past 104 days.

Imagine if the amount spent daily is more than double or triple, the amount would easily reach billions of pesos.

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New security plan for Mindanao martial law sought

By Charlie V. Manalo

Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel is counting on the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to draw up a whole new security strategy for Mindanao to prevent a repeat of the Marawi City siege elsewhere.

"We cannot afford to expose another city or large municipality in Mindanao to a crisis akin to Marawi, or to the Zamboanga City siege in 2013," Pimentel, a member of the House committee on national defense and security, yesterday said.

Pimentel is supporting President Rodrigo Duterte's plan to enlist up to 20,000 new

soldiers to build up the Armed Forces.

"Actually, compared to our peers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, we really have fewer active military personnel to begin with," he noted.

At present, the lawmaker said the Armed Forces has a total active troop strength of only

125,259 - with 85,825 in the Army; 22,771 in the Navy, and 16,663 in the Air Force - excluding 2,693 soldiers deployed to service support units.

"We still have pockets of insurgency in other parts of the country, so we cannot just pull out large forces from Luzon or the Visayas and transfer them to

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Mindanao," he stressed.

"The peril of opportunistic elements taking advantage of fewer troops stationed elsewhere due to redeployments is always there, so we really need the additional soldiers," Pimentel said.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has earlier said Malacañang may ask Congress to pass a supplemental appropriations law for the rehabilitation of Marawi, the replenishment of the military's weapons store and the recruitment and training of up to 10,000 soldiers.

"We are not overly concerned now, because Mindanao is still under martial law. But in the long term, we have to increase our investment in Mindanao's security, mainly to protect population centers and vital installations," the lawmaker added.

"Besides, we are developing high-value infrastructure projects in Mindanao that will require extra security for deterrence," Pimentel stressed.

The Department of Transportation (DoTr) is investing P36 billion from 2018 to 2022 to construct and complete Phase 1 of the Mindanao Railway Project - the

102-kilometer line linking the cities of Tagum, Davao and Digos, according to Pimentel.

The lawmaker said the DoTr is also investing P1.14 billion in 2018 alone to modernize 13 airports in Mindanao.

The DoTr is spending P425 million for the Don Carlos Airport in Bukidnon; P221 million for the Zamboanga City Airport; P200 million for the Surigao City Airport; P192.2 million for the Ozamiz City Airport; P184 million for the Butuan City Airport; P132 million for the Dipolog City Airport; and P161 million for the Cotabato City Airport.

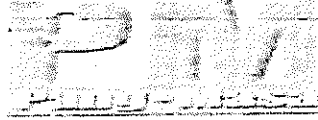
The department is also spending

P100 million for the Sanga-Sanga Island Airport in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi; P84.2 million for the Pagadian City Airport; P38 million for the M'lang Airport in North Cotabato; P30 million for the Jolo Airport in Sulu; P18.3 million for the Ipil Airport in Zamboanga Sibugay; and P9.5 million for the Bislig City Airport.

Pimentel said the airports in Ozamiz, Dipolog, Cotabato and Pagadian are currently being night-rated to enable them to handle evening flights.

Congress in July granted the President's request to extend martial law in Mindanao until the end of the year.

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Pahina. 2

Mosque na ginawang 'sex den' ng Maute-Isis nabawi na

Nabawi na ng tropang mga sundalo ang isa pang mosque na pinagkutaan at pinaniniwalaan din na ginamit bilang sex den ng mga teroristang Maute-ISIS group sa mga bihag nitong kababaihan na kanilang hinalay sa patuloy na bakbakan sa lungsod ng Marawi kamakalawa.

Ayon kay Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command na ang Islamic Center sa Brgy. Pangarungan

ay inokupa ng mga teroristang naglunsad ng mga pag-atake sa mga istrategikong bahagi ng lungsod.

Sinabi ng opisyal na kontrolado na ng tropa ng gobyerno ang nasa-bing Islamic Center na napilitang abandonahin ng mga teroristang Maute-ISIS matapos na madehado sa bakbakan sa lungsod.

Magugunita na mismong mga nailigtas na mga sibilyang hostages ang nagkuwento sa secu-

rity forces hinggil sa pang-aabuso ng mga terorista sa mga kababaihang bihag sa nasabing mosque.

Samantalang aabot naman sa mahigit 200,000 katao ang nagsilikas sa Marawi City sa takot na maipit sa bakbakan.

Sa tala simula ng sumiklab ang krisis ay nasa 655 na ang napaaslang sa mga terorista habang sa hanay ng security forces ay nasa 145 at 45 naman sa hanay ng mga sibilyan. *-Joy Cantos-*

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The Manila Times

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Editorial

The difficulty of war deadlines

PHILIPPINE military officials have learned an inconvenient truth in their zealous attempt to liberate Marawi City from the clutches of terrorism: deadlines are dangerous and can cost lives.

The first directive was to clear the capital of Lanao del Sur within two weeks from the time the battle erupted on May 23. One hundred and 10 days later, the battle rages on. Although the Armed Forces of the Philippines have retaken most of the 8,755 hectares of the city's land area, the terrorists still have control over about 20 hectares.

As early as June 2, the armed forces have been feeling the pressure of a deadline after 10 government soldiers died from friendly fire the day before, when they were hit by a bomb from one of the planes attacking enemy positions in the city.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla admitted during a subsequent press briefing it would not be possible to end the siege in two weeks. "Based on the report that we're getting, I don't think we can meet that deadline today to completely – I'd like to qualify that – to completely free Marawi of every single armed element on every street."

The most recent estimate of a time frame to end the bloody siege, given by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana last week, was within 21 to 30 days, supposedly based on the assessment by ground commanders.

It hardly qualifies for a deadline, considering the countless deadlines that have been relayed to the public since early June, including the presidential directive to regain the city between July 21 and 26. That would have been a great peg for the President's State of Nation Address on July 24.

It is a long and arduous battle to liberation day, especially for the Maranaos whose lives and perspective of their homeland are now forever scarred by the misguided decision of the Mautes. They have chosen to side with the IS in attempting to establish a regional foothold from which to sow terrorism and stage terrorist activities in Southeast Asia.

The call for patience is in order as our soldiers continue to put their lives on the line to defend the ideals of a democratic republic and national sovereignty. Patience because the enemy is determined to make a last stand, patience because the armed forces must have enough strategic leeway in executing the end game to minimize the extent of military casualties and collateral damage while ensuring total victory, not a stalemate that would prove deadlier in the long run.

The lessons from Marawi may be bitter, the list quite long, but well worth learning.

Misreading intelligence reports on IS fighters shifting from a military rout in the Middle East and targeting Mindanao as a staging point and establishing a new front of terrorism in Southeast Asia was a costly mistake.

It is now crystal clear that military and civilian authorities must henceforth act resolutely in deciphering intelligence reports such as the buildup of militants in Marawi and the presence of high-value targets in the area.

The Rewards for Justice Program of the United States Department of State is offering up to \$5 million for information leading directly to the apprehension or conviction of Isnilon Totoní Hapilon, who remains on the most wanted list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Hapilon had banded with the Maute brothers and pledged allegiance to IS in securing Marawi for the purpose of international terrorism.

According to the FBI, Hapilon "was indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged involvement in terrorist acts against United States nationals and other foreign nationals in and around the Republic of the Philippines."

Indeed, the military was there on May 23 to capture Hapilon, who was supposedly seeking medical treatment from a battle wound. What the military missed was that IS fighters were already entrenched in the area. Consequently, government troops were surprised when they were met with superior firepower from the enemy line.

The siege of Marawi must never happen again anywhere else in Mindanao, or the Philippines for that matter. Every nook and cranny must be secured to ensure no terrorist is given an inch of our sovereign territory.

Vigilance and timely response to future threats are the hallmarks of valiant military service in protecting national sovereignty and the welfare of innocent civilians. The courage of our soldiers in the face of such threats can never be measured against deadlines that come and go.

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

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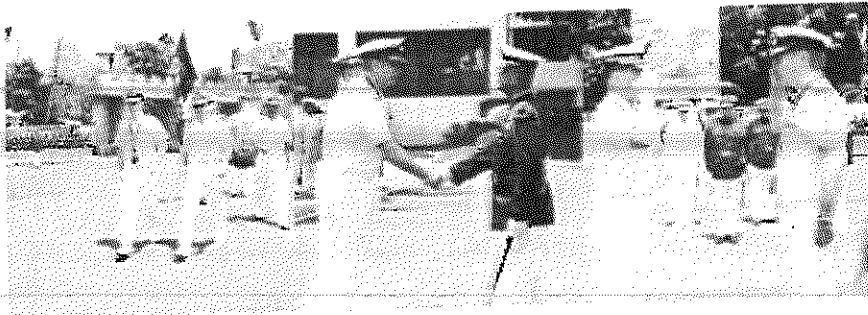
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COURTESY CALL | Australian Navy Chief visit the Philippine Navy

By Alvin Santiago

NAVAL STATION JOSE ANDRADA, Roxas Blvd, Manila (DWDD) – Vice Adm. Timothy Barret, the Chief of Navy, Royal Australian Navy rendered courtesy call to the Flag Officer In Command, Philippine Navy, Vice Adm. Ronald Joseph S. Mercado on September 7, 2017, at the Headquarters Philippine Navy (HPN), Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Prior to Vice Adm. Barret visit to HPN, he has also visited earlier the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Headquarters and also rendered courtesy call to the AFP Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Año. **NPAO / MCAG**



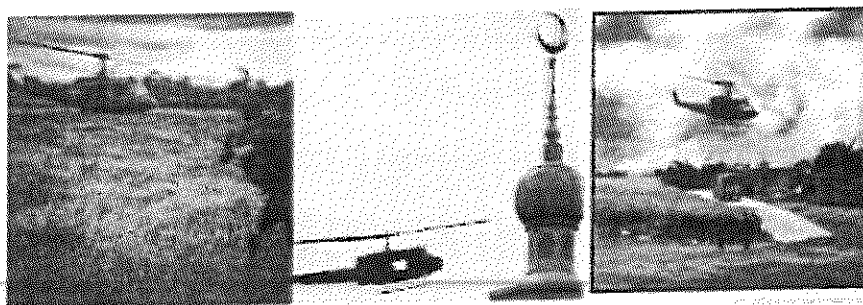
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DAGGERS IN ACTION | The 208th Tactical Helicopter Squadron in Marawi

Report by [Alvin Santiago](#)

MARAWI, Lanao del Sur (DWDD) – As the fierce battle between government troops and members of the local terrorists group Maute erupted in Marawi, Lanao del Sur, the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing was able to reinforce and deploy elements of UH-1H Helicopter to help the government troops flush out rebels and retake control of the battered city. Dagger flight from 208th Tactical Helicopter Squadron was one of the elements deployed and has been present all throughout in helping the troops to perform deliberate operations in the city.



The Daggers have been operating in various parts of the country for 35 years. They have been providing the much-needed inter-island heli-lift capability. And because of the remarkable performance of its UH-1H in performing combat heli-lift and counter insurgency operation, the Daggers were deployed in the southern part of the Philippines such as in Jolo, Sulu, Basilan, and Marawi City.

As the conflict enters its third month, the Daggers together with other flying units of the PAF continue to be faithful to its mandated tasks to provide heli-lift transport to our operating troops on the ground. **208th THS / MCAG**

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

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UPDATE | Campaign to Free Marawi

Reported by: Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – Today marks the 110th day of the Marawi siege.

As of the latest report, Government troops have successfully neutralized 655 members of the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group.

According to Marine Col Edgard Arevalo, Chief, PAO-AFP, civilians killed in the siege remains at 45 although authorities are expecting to recover more victims of the terror group as they slowly proceed in clearing the Main Battle Area which is laden with mines, booby traps and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).



They have so far recovered 680 firearms from the terrorist; civilians rescued remains at 1,728

The AFP continues to assault to the enemies remaining positions that is gradually reduced daily. The Maute's defenses continue to wane as their strength does.

Our soldiers are still very mindful of the presence of civilians which are made both as human shields or ordered to wield firearms and ammunition and converted to become fighters, with guns against their heads.

The number of soldiers and police personnel that have made the ultimate sacrifice still remains at 145.

Meanwhile, the status of donations deposited in Landbank as at 3PM of 08 Sept 17 for the AFP Marawi Casualty have reached P38,124,573.23, while donations for the Marawi IDP has reached P989,515.21. **PAO AFP / MCAG**

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