



PRESS STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

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Statement of Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana on the Death of Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute and Rescue of 17 Hostages

We have received a report from AFP ground commanders in Marawi that the operation conducted by government forces to retake the last remaining Daesh-Maute stronghold in the city has resulted in the death of the last terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, and that their bodies have been recovered by our operating units.

The report also said that our troops have rescued 17 civilian hostages and mopping up operations are underway.

We will announce the termination of hostilities once government forces have ensured that there are no more terrorists-stragglers in the city and we have cleared all structures of IEDs and other traps.

After the fighting stops, we will refocus our efforts on the challenging task of rebuilding and rehabilitating Marawi.

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