



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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SND Delfin N. Lorenzana's Message

Culmination Program for Marawi Week of Peace/

Battle of Marawi Commemoration Program

24 May 2018 | Thursday | 2:00 PM | Headquarters, 103rd Infantry Brigade, Marawi City

[PLEASANTRIES]

THE PRESIDENT SENT ME HERE TO REPRESENT HIM AS HE COULD NOT MAKE IT BECAUSE OF AN EVENT SCHEDULED EARLIER. YOU KNOW MUCH THE PRESIDENT PRIORITIZES MARAWI. IF ONLY HIS SCHEDULE WOULD ALLOW HIM, HE WOULD DEFINITELY BE HERE.

FIRST, ALLOW ME TO COMMEND THE ORGANIZER OF THIS EVENT—THE TASK FORCE BANGON MARAWI. YOU DID A SUPERB JOB IN COMING UP WITH THIS SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY THAT MARKS THE START OF MARAWI SIEGE. THIS IS NOT TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT MARAWI SIEGE HAPPENED, BUT THE HEROISM OF SOLDIERS IN THE MARAWI FRONTLINES AS WELL AS OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING THAT FIVE-MONTH LONG BATTLE.

YESTERDAY, MAY 23, EXACTLY ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE MARAWI SIEGE TERRIFIED THE NATION. TODAY'S GATHERING IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF US TO TAKE A STOCK OF WHAT HAPPENED, OF THE THINGS WE SHOULD HAVE DONE BUT WE FAILED TO DO, OF THE LESSONS LEARNED AND THE BEST PRACTICES THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE ADOPT.

THE CONCRETE JUNGLE OF MARAWI BROUGHT OUT MANY STORIES OF GALLANTRY, TRUE COURAGE, DEDICATION OF OUR TROOPS; AND THAT OF RESILIENCE OF MARAWI RESIDENTS—THESE STORIES SHED LIGHT DURING THE CITY'S DARKEST TIMES. MARAWI SIEGE ALSO STRENGTHENED US AS A NATION—AS DIVERSE AS WE ARE, WE WERE UNIFIED BY OUR DESIRE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF EXTREMISTS' GOSPEL OF HATE AND ANGER.

ONE YEAR MAY HAVE PASSED BUT THE PAIN AND THE RUINS ARE STILL THERE. REST ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING ALL IT CAN TO DIMINISH THE PAIN AND PUT THINGS BACK TO NORMAL.

TASK FORCE BANGON MARAWI HAS BEEN CEASELESSLY LEADING THE REHABILITATION. TEMPORARY SHELTERS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED FOR THE EVACUEES, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING THEIR PERMANENT HOUSES. FOREIGN ALLIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RELIEF OF THIS WAR-TORN CITY.

IN NO TIME, MARAWI WILL RISE AGAIN AND PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT WILL ONCE AGAIN RULE THIS CITY. IN NO TIME, THE CITY WILL BE HEALED AND THE PEOPLE WILL DANCE AGAIN AND LAUGH AGAIN. BUT TO BE SAFE, WE MUST STILL REMAIN VIGILANT BECAUSE TERRORISTS ARE JUST LURKING IN THE SHADOWS. THOUGH WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN OUR COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS FOR THE PAST YEAR, THESE ENDEAVORS STILL REQUIRE CONTINUED PERSEVERANCE, VIGILANCE, AND SACRIFICE OF EVERYONE FOR THE YEARS TO COME. ON THIS NOTE, I THANK ALL OF YOU HERE FOR THE SIGNED JOINT DECLARATION OF ALL-OUT SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN ENSURING PEACE AND ORDER IN LANA DEL SUR, AND FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF EVIL ACTS OF LOCAL TERRORIST GROUPS. REST ASSURED THAT THE SIGNED DOCUMENT WILL REACH THE PRESIDENT.

MAGING MATATAG TAYO AT MAPAGMATYAG! LET US ALSO CONTINUE TO ECHO OUR CALL FOR PEACE AND UNITY! *MARAMING SALAMAT AT MABUHAY ANG MARAWI!*

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