



Marawi Rehabilitation Progress Slows in the Philippines

OE Watch Commentary: In May 2017 the Philippine armed forces began engaging in clashes that lasted for five months with the Maute Group, which was a locally rooted, but regionally connected pro-Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militia. Now, according to the accompanying excerpted article which was published on *Philstar.com* on 23 May, the task force manager in charge of rebuilding Marawi says that the city’s rehabilitation process could still take over a year or more. Only then will the debris be fully removed and residents be able to rebuild their properties. The problems with rehabilitation of Marawi, however, also extend to repairing sewage networks, telecommunications and electricity lines. It has been noted that the government needs to contract with a developer to assist in rebuilding, while at the same time recognize it must do a better job of seeking input from the displaced civilians to ensure that their needs are met and their input is respected.

The immediate next step, according to the article, is for the displaced civilians to move to temporary shelters where they will stay until they can move back into regular housing in the city. However, the article also highlights that the government is unclear on the budget needed to rebuild the city, let alone the specifics of compensating people who will not be able to rebuild their houses because of new infrastructure projects, such as road widening. This article shows that long after the battle itself, the trauma in Marawi persists. Though the article does not indicate there is a chance for the militia to reappear in Marawi in the near future, it is evident that if the government cannot provide for the city’s residents during the rehabilitation period, then it will struggle to win their loyalty or confidence. There is concern that this could be a favorable outcome for the insurgent remnants’ longer term prospects in the area. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**

Source: “A year after Marawi siege, gov’t uncertain when rehabilitation will start,” *philstar.com*, 23 May 2018. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/05/23/1818036/year-after-marawi-siege-govt-uncertain-when-rehabilitation-will-start>

A year after Marawi City was decimated by a five-month battle, the government is yet to start the rehabilitation of the Islamic city, with officials eyeing the middle of next month as the start of the rebuilding process. According to Felix Castro, Task Force Bagon Marawi field office manager, it might take between 12 to 18 more months of debris clearing and “horizontal preparations” before residents will be allowed to rebuild their property in the war-ravaged city. Horizontal preparations include the laying of sewage networks, telecommunications and electricity lines and road expansion.

Castro said the government has only identified a proponent for the rehabilitation, not a developer, as negotiations are still ongoing and the final plan is still being threshed out. He said that input from stakeholders will be considered in crafting the final plan, which would be subject to negotiations with the government

Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong said that an open communication line between the government and the affected communities is important to ensure that people’s frustrations are not used to mount another armed rebellion.

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“Marawi Ground Zero.”

Source: Philippine Information Agency, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marawi_Ground_Zero.jpg, CC-BY-2.0.