



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

سفارة جمهورية الفلبين

MANAMA

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. MPGC-015-2017

03 July 2017

To all Filipinos in Bahrain,

The Philippine Embassy wishes to provide you a copy of the attached letter from the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute regarding the Philippine Army's #OgopMarawi (Help Marawi) Drive which aims to aid the internally displaced people of Marawi City and boost the morale of soldiers deployed to fight the Maute terrorists.

The Embassy would like to request your support by dropping off your postcards/letters at the Embassy for our soldiers stationed in Marawi City as our way of boosting the morale of our troops.

As time is of the essence, the Embassy, intends to send these letters to the Philippine Army via Diplomatic pouch not later than 15 July 2017.

Thank you for your cooperation.


MARIA PAZ G. CORTES
Chargé D' Affaires, a.i.

Encl.: a/s



BLAS F. OPLE
POLICY CENTER AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

June 19, 2017

0107401

Hon. Secretary Alan S. Cayetano
Office of the Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
DFA Building Roxas Boulevard
Manila

Dear Secretary Cayetano,

Warmest greetings from the Blas F. Ople Policy Center!

The Ople Center would like to request for assistance and support from the Department of Foreign Affairs to enable millions of OFWs to participate in the Philippine Army's #OgopMarawi ("Help Marawi") drive.

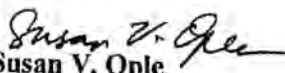
We believe that our OFWs would be more than willing to send postcards and letters for our soldiers stationed in Marawi City as their way of boosting the morale of our troops. It is our hope that the DFA through the Office of the Secretary shall instruct all posts to accept and gather postcards and letters written by our OFWs to boost the morale of our troops in Marawi City.

Our OFWs can either drop off their postcards/letters at the nearest embassy or consulate or send them by mail to our diplomatic posts. Our posts can then forward these postcards and letters to the DFA main office via diplomatic pouch. It would then be up to our Philippine Army to distribute these letters of hope and love to our soldiers at the frontlines. By doing so, every OFW can contribute his or her share to building peace in Mindanao through #OgopMarawi.

Attached to this letter is our press release issued today and which was circulated during this morning's "Tapatan sa Aristocrat" media breakfast forum. A positive response from the DFA would be profoundly appreciated. Initial queries made by the Ople Center with some allies especially in the Middle East yielded positive and enthusiastic replies.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,


Susan V. Ople
President

June 19, 2017

OFWs eager to send postcards, letters to soldiers fighting the Maute Group in Marawi City

An OFW group urged the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to instruct all diplomatic posts to accept postcards and letters written by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) for troops fighting in Marawi City as part of #OgopMarawi ("Help Marawi") campaign of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

In calling on the public to send letters to military troops fighting the Maute Group in Marawi City, Philippine Army chief General Roberto Arevalo said "every act of kindness is a message of support for peace."

The Blas F. Ople Policy Center said that millions of overseas Filipino workers around the world would like to take part in #OgopMarawi to show their support to the government's fight against violent extremism.

"Our OFWs from every nook and corner of the world are eager to participate. They want to boost the morale of our soldiers. The only question is how can they make sure that postcards of hope and peace from our OFWs throughout the world do make it all the way to Marawi City. We urge the DFA through its diplomatic posts to serve as a bridge between our OFWs and the Philippine Army," Susan Ople, president of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center said.

Ople also asked the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) to accept shoebox donations from OFW families and Filipino communities abroad.

Colonel Thomas Sedano Jr. of the Philippine Army's Civil Military Operations Group (CMOG) identified the three main projects under #OgopMarawi:

Project shoebox to provide school supplies to about 50,000 children and students;
"Bayanihan para sa mga Bayani ng Bayan" to provide clothes, hygiene kits, and inspirational messages for the troops; and,
Relief operations to provide aid to thousands of civilians displaced by the conflict.

Recently, the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) expressed willingness to deliver letters of support to the soldiers fighting in Marawi City. The Ople Center said that for OFWs, it would be easier for Filipino community groups to gather postcards and letters and course these through the nearest Philippine embassy or Philippine Consulate General.

"Our OFWs are considered as modern-day heroes of the country while our soldiers are national heroes for putting their lives on the line to keep all of us safe. The DFA and OWWA can pave the way for millions of OFWs to start sending postcards and letters of hope and support to our military troops in Marawi City and even for the families staying in evacuation centers," Ople said.

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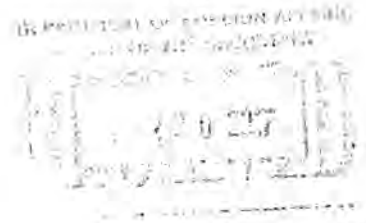


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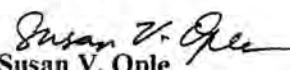
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News Release

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