

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



TEAM ARMY

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NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 January 2016

Sunday

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

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10 January 2016

The Manila Times

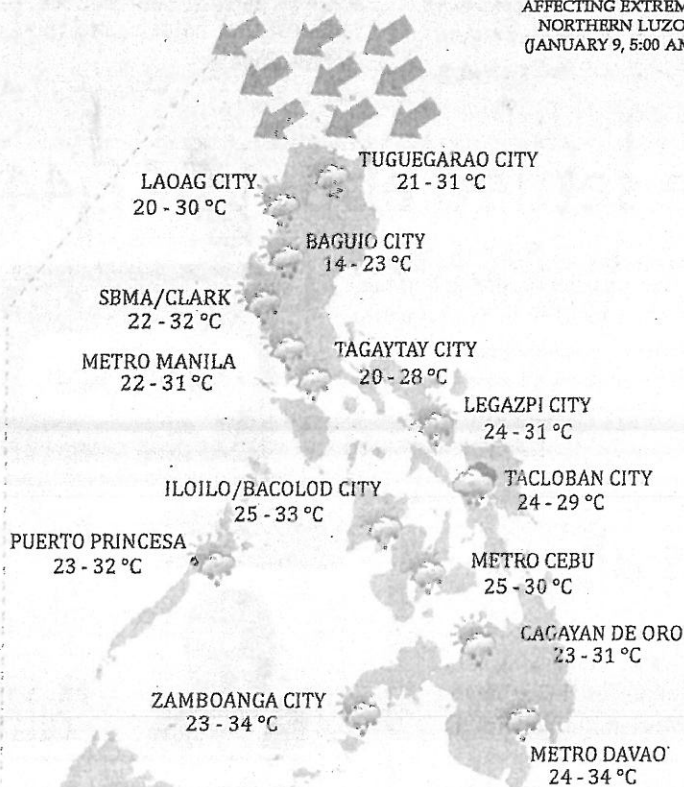
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PANAHAON TV

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

JANUARY 10, 2016 | SUNDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON
AFFECTING EXTREME
NORTHERN LUZON
(JANUARY 9, 5:00 AM)



SUNRISE

SUNSET



6:24 AM

5:43 PM

MOONRISE

MOONSET

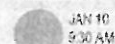


6:13 AM

6:00 PM

NEW MOON

FIRST QUARTER



LOW TIDE

HIGH TIDE



5:46 AM
-0.23 Meter

10:03 PM
1.12 Meter



Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers



Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms



Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms



Light rains

	JAN 11 MONDAY	JAN 12 TUESDAY	JAN 13 WEDNESDAY	JAN 11 MONDAY	JAN 12 TUESDAY	JAN 13 WEDNESDAY
METRO MANILA	22 - 31 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	13 - 24 °C	13 - 22 °C	13 - 22 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C	23 - 34 °C	23 - 35 °C
BAGUIO						
PUERTO PRINCESA						
BORACAY						

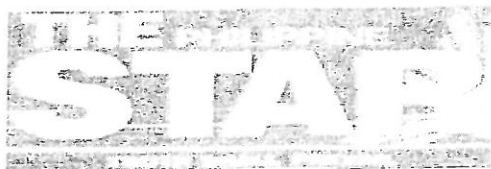
AIR 21
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Page 1

1 devotee dead, 1,200 hurt

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

A 27-year-old devotee died after participating in the annual procession of the Black Nazarene in Manila yesterday, while more than 1,200 others were treated for injuries.

Authorities said Alex Fulyedo of Blumentritt, Manila had a seizure as he and his friends were resting near the Manila City Hall.

"The victim and his companions had just pulled out from the *traslacion* and were resting in front of SM Manila when, several minutes after, he suffered a seizure," said Vergel Reyes, a staff of the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

Reyes said an ambulance of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) happened to pass by and brought the victim to the nearby field hospital.

PRC secretary-general Gwendolyn Pang said Fulyedo was unconscious and had no pulse when doctors reached him. They tried to revive him but failed, she said.

"The victim's companion said that he has a background of liver

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1 devotee From Page 1

ailment. But his death was possibly caused by a heart attack," Reyes added.

Earlier, a 58-year-old man died before the procession started.

Initial reports said Mauro Arabit, a candle vendor from Binagonan, Rizal, suffered heart attack while attending the early morning mass at the Quiapo Church.

The victim reportedly fainted and hit his head on the ground and lost consciousness. He was eventually declared dead on arrival at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center due to acute coronary disease.

The PRC said it has attended to a total of 1,253 devotees suffering from various injuries or ailments after joining the procession.

More than 494 of them sustained wounds mostly on their feet, eye abrasions and dizziness, while others suffered hypoglycemia or low blood sugar.

Five cases complained of difficulty in breathing, hyperventilation, fainting and one case of possible rib fracture, while 214 others had their

blood pressure taken.

Last year, two devotees died during the *traslacion* while scores of others were injured.

A 15-year-old boy, on the other hand, was rescued in the Pasig River after reportedly falling off Jones Bridge during the procession.

Crescencio Ambat, of Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila, was rescued by Coast Guard personnel while patrolling the Pasig River during the *traslacion*.

Ambat later said his friends dared him to jump from the bridge.

More orderly

Unlike in previous years, the start of the *traslacion* from the Quirino Grandstand was earlier, faster and more orderly.

Where chaos once marred the *traslacion*, the transfer of the black image of Christ was done more smoothly.

Unlike last year, this time there were no *mamamasans* (devotees) who made a mad scramble up the stage of the Quirino Grandstand to grab the image even before the Eucharistic celebration ended.

The organizers rescheduled the send off

mass earlier at midnight.

At the end of the Liturgy of the Hours - Morning Prayers at 5:30 a.m., security men went on stage, interlocking their arms to form a human barrier to prevent eager devotees from scrambling up to the altar.

But such security measures were not needed because the devotees stayed on and just waited for the image to be brought to the *andas* (carriage) at 5:30 a.m.

After rigging the two 10-meter abaca ropes to the carriage, the devotees began slowly dragging the *andas* from Quirino Grandstand shortly before 6 a.m.

Initially there was confusion among the devotees as to where to drag the *andas*. They were initially pulling the image toward T.M. Kalaw Street, when it was supposed to take Katigbak Drive. But this was immediately corrected and they followed the approved route.

Quiapo Church rector Hernando Coronel attributed the better turnout of the activities at the Quirino Grandstand to being "flexible" in planning the earlier send off.

He also credited yesterday's send off

outcome to having better communications with the delegations of devotees from 270 out of the estimated more than 400 *balangays* (group).

"My approach was to be consultative, inclusive and participatory. We also made it a point to make the Hijos del Nazareno (Sons of the Nazarene) involved and they were given the responsibility to give instructions to their members. We guided and empowered the Hijos del Nazarenos," Coronel said.

Police said a million devotees attended the send off at the Quirino Grandstand.

The crowd began to swell as the procession made its way to Padre Burgos then to Taft Avenue in front of the Manila City Hall.

Upon reaching the Liwasang Bonifacio at the foot of Jones Bridge in the afternoon, the number of devotees went up to 1.3 million, excluding those who waited along the route.

Most of the devotees waited at the foot of Jones Bridge in Binondo and thousands more at Plaza Sta. Cruz going to Palanca Street in the seven-kilometer route of the procession.

As of 6:45 p.m. yesterday, the procession had reached Arlegui Street in San Miguel.

Authorities said some 70,000 people were at the Quiapo Church waiting for the procession to conclude.

It was at the right turn to the narrow Dasmariñas Street in Binondo where the procession stalled for several minutes because of the sheer number of devotees trying to scramble up to the carriage.

There were a number of devotees, mostly women, who fainted and had to be literally lifted out of the area above the heads of people jam-packed in a small space.

A number of devotees could be seen literally walking on the shoulders of other people and diving onto the *andas* which carried the ebony image of Christ.

At the tail end of the procession, a garbage truck followed with some 600 street sweepers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) picking up the tons of garbage left by the devotees.

The MMDA said they hauled away six truckloads of garbage from the Quirino Grandstand alone, where the traditional "Pahalik" or kissing of the centuries-old image was held the night before yesterday's procession.

Many Filipinos believe that the Black Nazarene holds miraculous healing powers, and make lifetime vows to join the annual parade of the ebony statue. The devotees are often stereotyped to be rowdy and fanatical.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, however, explained that they are the people who simply wanted to express their gratitude for favors granted.

- With Evelyn Macairan, Sheila Crisostomo, Ghio Ong, Mike Frialde, Jaime Laude

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Comelec in disarray over Poe DQ cases

By Tina G. Santos, Leila B. Salaverria,
Tarra Quismundo and Marlon Ramos

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday appeared to be in disarray, with two of its members locking horns over an “unauthorized” filing of a comment in the Supreme Court for the junking of Sen. Grace Poe’s petitions for the reversal of two rulings by the poll watchdog to disqualify her from the presidential election in May.

The disclosure of the unauthorized comment prompted Poe’s camp to ask Comelec Chair Andres Bautista to expose the members of the election commission with “political agenda” and working for her

COMELEC/A9

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From page A1

elimination from the election.

Poe's camp also said that if the Comelec comment was indeed unauthorized, she would ask the Supreme Court to strike it off the records for a faster resolution of her cases.

Talking to reporters late on Friday, Bautista disclosed that Election Commissioner Rowena Guanzon filed a comment on Poe's pleadings to the Supreme Court to overturn the decisions of the Comelec First and Second Divisions to disqualify her from the election without clearance from him or the full commission.

Bautista said Guanzon put his name on the document, but he had neither read nor signed it.

In the comment filed by Guanzon on Thursday, the Comelec asked the Supreme Court to junk Poe's challenge to the decisions of the First and Second Divisions to cancel her certificate of candidacy for President for her failure to prove that she was a natural-born Filipino and meet the 10-year residency requirement for presidential candidates.

Order to explain

Bautista issued a memorandum on Friday directing Guanzon and Maria Norina Tangaro-Casingal, director of the Comelec's law department, to explain "under whose authority the comment was filed."

He said he found the filing of the comment without giving him and the other members of the Comelec a chance to review its contents "not only irregular but [also] personally disrespectful."

Bautista gave Guanzon and Casingal 24 hours to explain. If their explanation was unsatisfactory, Bautista said he would be "constrained to inform the Supreme Court that the filing of the comment was unauthorized."

Guanzon rejected Bautista's directive, insisting that she had the authority to make the filing.

"I must emphasize that as a commissioner, I am not a subordinate or [an] employee of Chair Bautista and he has no administrative supervision or control over me," Guanzon said in a two-page tweet she posted late on Friday.

Guanzon said Bautista's actions on Friday hurt the image of the Comelec and might have damaged the commission's case in the Supreme Court.

"The memorandum of Chair Bautista unfortunately damaged the image of the institution and I am afraid might prejudice our case," she said.

"Our first priority should be the institution and the country that we must serve faithfully," she said.

Guanzon said the preparation and filing of the comment "had the impropriety of a subordinate acting on his own."

matur of the Comelec en banc."

She said she was compelled to issue the statement to defend herself against the "serious accusations" of Bautista.

Guanzon said Bautista's statements stained her "reputation as [an election] commissioner and as a lawyer."

Bautista declined to comment on Guanzon's statement yesterday, saying he would take up the matter during a session of the full commission.

Poe's camp expressed concern about a brawl in the Comelec that may have been provoked by the actions of members of the commission who were biased against the senator.

"It's alarming to see that the very institution tasked [with overseeing] the conduct of orderly elections is in

disarray," Valenzuela Mayor Rex Gatchalian, a spokesperson for Poe, said in a statement.

Unmask them

Without mentioning names, Gatchalian pressed the belief in Poe's camp that some members of the Comelec were pursuing their own "political agenda" and working against Poe.

Gatchalian urged Bautista to open an impartial investigation, unmask those members of the commission and "make them publicly accountable."

He said the actions of Guanzon were "wrong, as she is usurping the powers reserved for the [Comelec] en banc."

"The actions of Commissioner Guanzon are undermining our elec-

toral process and endangering our very democracy," Gatchalian said.

Poe's next move

Poe's lawyer George Garcia said she would ask the Supreme Court to "expunge" from the records the Comelec comment if it was true that the filing was unauthorized.

He said Poe would also ask the Supreme Court to declare the Comelec had waived its right to comment on her petitions to overturn the poll watchdog's rulings disqualifying her from the presidential race.

Garcia could not say, however, if such a motion would lead to the cancellation of oral arguments on the case set by the Supreme Court for Jan. 19.

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

NPA bombs, firearms seized in Surigao del Sur

From the Manila Bulletin (Jan 9)

BUTUAN CITY – Government security forces seized high powered bombs and firearms allegedly concealed by the New People's Army (NPA) in the farmland village of San Isidro, in Lianga town, Surigao del Sur, field Army commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported Saturday.



File Photo: High-powered firearms carried by 35 NPA fighters from Northeastern Mindanao who previously surrendered to the government. (Photo courtesy of Mike U. Crismundo)

1Lt Karl Jan S. Devaras, commander of the 41st Civil Military Operations (Magkahiusa) Company said composite troops belonging to the 7th Special Forces Company, Special Operations Command and the "Bayanihan Team" of the Alpha Company of the 7th Infantry (Marauder) Battalion seized several anti-tank cylindrical shaped improvised explosive devices (IEDs), clay more mines with detonating cords and other bomb materials, Springfield Garand and 12 Gauge Shot gun rifles and other war materials, on Wednesday (January 6, 2016).

"These bomb materials and other war materials were discovered after an NPA fighter who surrendered to our operating troops reported that his comrades-in-arms were planning to stage atrocities in targeted areas including government troops in the province using the seized bombs," claimed Devaras.

He also said that the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), is also set to conduct atrocities to aspiring politicians who will refuse to give extortion money in a form of permit to campaign (PTC) to the local rebel group.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Rey Pasco, commanding officer of the 4th Civil Military Operations Battalion based at Camp Bancasi said under the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), the use of landmines and other bomb materials is a serious human rights violation.

"Due to the discovery and recovery of the high powered firearms and IEDs, the planned atrocity of the local NPA group was once again preempted by our government troops in Surigao del Sur," Col. Pasco added.

On the other hand, Col. Isidro L. Purisima, commander of the 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade based in Surigao del Sur condemned the NPA for their continuous fabrication and use of IEDs.

"They (NPAs) clearly disregard the safety and security of civilians, especially the farmers, for concealing firearms and several high explosive devices in an agricultural land which has a nearby community," he said.

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151-day election period starts today; gun ban in effect

The 151-day election period starts today as the Commission on Elections (Comelec) enforces various security measures, including the gun ban.

Comelec Commissioner

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

Luie Tito Guia said the "Comelec can take action on certain activities... to allow us to achieve the goals of free and fair elections" on May 9.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez noted that the election period, which runs from Jan. 10 to June 8, "defines the span of time during which the

Turn to Page 8

151-day From Page 1

Comelec exercises extraordinary powers, for purposes of ensuring honest, orderly and peaceful election."

Based on Comelec Resolution No. 9981, which prescribes the Calendar of Activities for the coming elections, "bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons, unless authorized in writing by the commission, shall be prohibited."

Comelec Resolution No. 10015, however, allows President Aquino, Vice President Jejomar Binay, senators, members of the House of Representatives, Cabinet secretaries and other officials of the executive, judiciary, legislative and law enforcement agencies to carry guns.

Cashiers and disbursing officers or persons who "habitually" carry large sums of money or valuables and members of private security service providers are also exempted from the ban.

During the election period, the transfer or

movement of officers and employees in the civil service is not allowed.

The Comelec, however, has granted "continuing authority" to some offices to hire, appoint or transfer officers or employees.

These include the Office of the President, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals and lower courts, Senate and Presidential Electoral Tribunal, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Checkpoints, to be manned by personnel from the PNP and AFP, will also be established across the country.

The Comelec has ordered the police and the military to uphold proper search procedures and seizure at checkpoints to ensure that "civil, political and human rights are not violated."

Comelec Resolution No. 10029 states that law enforcers could not compel occupants to step out of their vehicle during checkpoint inquiry.

"Only visual search is required, where a

police officer simply looks into the vehicle and flashes a flashlight therein without opening the car's door," the resolution reads.

Gun ban starts

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor said the gun ban takes effect at 12:01 a.m. today and PNP units would establish checkpoints in strategic areas in the country.

Mayor said anyone who needs to carry their firearm should seek exemption from the Comelec.

He said police units are directed to set up checkpoints to preempt election-related violent incidents.

"Each police unit is directed to set up at least one checkpoint. The police chief of a city or municipality can set up more than one checkpoint if the need arises," he added.

PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez said the PNP activated the National Security Task Force Secure and Fair Elections (NSTF-SAFE) to ensure orderly and honest elections in May.

Marquez personally led the planning and

drawing up of security measures for the presidential and local elections at Camp Crame, Quezon City last week.

"The Comelec-PNP Security and Contingency Planning Workshop aims to further identify procedures and resources and mitigate the impact of the identified risk factors during elections," Marquez said.

He added the workshop is meant to address all foreseen threats, particularly in places labeled as "areas of concern."

Marquez said Deputy Director General Danilo Constantino, PNP deputy chief for operations, will serve as the commander of the NSTF SAFE 2016 and closely coordinate with the AFP and the Comelec.

He said the PNP-NSTF is composed of provisional units from the national to the provincial level to capture high-profile targets linked to private armed groups.

Operations officers from the PNP National Operational Support Units, Directorate for Integrated Police Operations and police regional offices will be part of the NSTF SAFE.

Earlier, the PNP had ordered all police security escorts of politicians to go back to camp a day before the start of the election period as declared by the Comelec.

Chief Supt. Alfred Corpus, Police Security Protection Group director, said anyone who needs police security would have to apply with the poll body and not with the PNP.

Corpus said about 800 policemen assigned to secure politicians would be affected by the order, which is in compliance with Comelec Resolution 10015 recalling all of them.

But he clarified that protective agents or those employed by private security agencies would be allowed to act as security of private individuals.

Private armed groups

The AFP and the PNP will actively go after private armed groups (PAGs).

"We will coordinate with the PNP to address the problem of loose firearms," AFP chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry said.

He said the military campaign against loose firearms would zero in on private armies serving unscrupulous politicians around the country.

The military will also deal directly with the New People's Army (NPA), known for raking in huge sums of money during the political season through their "permit to campaign" and "permit to win" schemes.

Every election, NPAs charge huge fees to allow politicians to campaign in their so-called controlled communities.

For the past months, Iriberry, along with Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, officials of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the PNP have been visiting military and police units in the field as part of preparations for the May national and local elections. - **With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Jaime Laude**

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AFP declares 64 provinces insurgency-free

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said it was able to clear 64 provinces of communist insurgents by the end of last year.

The AFP said its sustained internal security operations against the communist rebels have left only 12 provinces still under the influence of the New People's Army (NPA).

"Our campaign continu-

ous to gain success, paving the way for the clearing of additional areas from NPA control," AFP chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry said following a meeting with military commanders.

With this development, Iriberry said the military leadership is confident it could meet its target of ending the country's insurgency problem at least by next year.

By JAIME LAUDE

He said the 64 provinces are now ready for development and the military is focusing its efforts into clearing the remaining 12 provinces, mostly located in regions of Davao and Caraga.

The government wants the insurgency problem ended as soon as possible so the military can focus on fending off China's aggressive actions

in the West Philippine Sea.

Iriberry said the military has cleared at least 13 guerilla fronts or 292 villages last year.

He said from 4,443 members at the end of 2014, the military managed to reduce the number of rebels to 3,296 as of the end of last year.

He said government security forces have arrested or neutralized at least 31 top

rebel leaders.

"The rebels launched no major offensive last year," Iriberry said.

As to other threat groups like the Abu Sayyaf, the AFP chief said they have reduced its membership, although he could not give figures.

The Abu Sayyaf kidnapped three foreigners and a Filipina from a resort in Davao del Norte late last year.

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BusinessMirror

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Military expects to end NPA insurgency in 2016

BY RENE ACOSTA

THE military is confident that it could meet its target of ending the communist insurgency problem this year, before it fully shifts into a territorial defense posture.

"Our campaign is continuously showing success, paving the way for

the clearing of additional barangays from the New People's Army [NPA]," said the Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hernando Delfin Carmelo Iriberry, after the command conference that was attended by all military commanders on Friday.

Iriberry said the government has already cleared a total of 64 provinces from the influence of

the communist guerrillas and is working to clear the remaining 12 provinces, most of them in the Davao and Caraga regions.

Iriberry said the 12 provinces are already "peaceful and ready for peaceful development."

The Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan, the military's countercommunist-insurgency campaign,



IRIBERRY:
"Our campaign is continuously showing success, paving the way for the clearing of additional barangays from the New People's Army."

paign that also included all threat groups, was conceived during the term of President Aquino and has an end goal of defeating all rebels before his term ends in June this year.

There is an urgency for the government to end the insurgency problem, so that it could fully focus its attention to territorial defense, whose center is fending off China's aggressiveness in the West Philippine Sea.

Iriberry said the military cleared at least 13 guerrilla fronts last year and this translates to 292 barangays formerly influenced or controlled by the NPA.

For the rebels, each guerrilla front covers one or, in some cases, two provinces, and its armed members are equivalent to a company-sized

or bigger formation in the military.

Iriberry said that from a membership of 4,443 at the end of 2014, the military has managed to reduce the number of rebels to 3,296 as of the end of last year. He did not explain how the Armed Forces arrived at those exact figures.

Iriberry said the military and police forces also arrested or neutralized at least 31 top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-National Democratic Front.

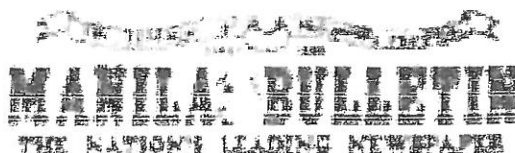
"There was no major tactical offensive that the rebels carried out last year," Iriberry said in underscoring the accomplishment of the military.

As to the other threat groups like the Abu Sayyaf, he said the military has also reduced its membership, although he could not give figures.

The Abu Sayyaf has resurrected its kidnapping activities late last year by taking in a number of foreigners, including the two Canadians and a Norwegian from a resort in Davao del Norte, whom it took to Sulu for ransom negotiations.

As to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, it has an existing preliminary peace agreement with the government.

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PNP, AFP assure poll period security in CL

By **MAR T. SUPNAD**
and **FREDDIE C. VELEZ**

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga — The military and police in Central Luzon have mapped out security measures and procedures for the duration of the election period, which starts today, and officials are confident that their coordinated efforts will ensure a peaceful conduct of the polls in May.

"The security preparations and proactive measures that Central Luzon police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are undertaking from Day One to D-Day (May 9), the goal for a safe and fair election will be attained," Chief Superintendent Rudy G. Lacadin, Police Regional Office-3 (PRO-3) director, said at the 1st Regional Joint Security Coordinating Center (RJSCC) meeting held here last Friday.

Convened by Atty. Temie P. Lambino, regional election director (RED) in Central Luzon of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the RJSCC meeting gathered Lacadin; Lieutenant Colonels Arnold Bernardo and Inocencio Pasaporte, representing of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division (7ID) Intelligence and Operations, respectively; provincial director of the PRO-3; senior field commanders of the 7ID; and provincial election supervisors.

"This (meeting) aims to have unified efforts among members of the security forces hand-in-hand with counterparts in other government agencies so that the forthcoming elections will be secured and fair," Lacadin said.

Lambino said the RJSCC is a composite organization in the region responsible for the coordinated and systematic utilization of all resources

dedicated in the successful conduct of election; implementation of the ban on the bearing, carrying or transporting of firearms; and the employment and deployment of security personnel in the region.

For Bulacan, Senior Superintendent Ferdinand O. Divina assured that maneuver platoons of the Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) as well as Army troopers and local police units had their final debriefing on the security plans and implementation of the total gun ban.

"They are now well prepared and ready for deployment as part of Complan: Safe 2016", Divina said.

Lacadin also said the police leadership is monitoring closely the activities of the remnants of the New People's Army (NPA), who usually impose "permits to campaign" fees on local candidates.

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STATE

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N. Korea releases video of 'new' submarine-launched missile test

SEOUL (AFP) – North Korea has released video footage of a purportedly new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test, three days after it claimed it had successfully tested its first hydrogen bomb.

But South Korean media suggested the footage broadcast by state *Korean Central TV* late Friday was an edited compilation of the North's third SLBM test, conducted last month in the Sea of Japan, and a different ballistic missile test from 2014.

The undated footage shows leader Kim Jong-Un, on board a military vessel in a winter coat and a fedora hat, looking on as a missile is launched vertically from underwater and ignites in mid air.

The video then cuts to a rocket flying through the clouds, suggesting the missile was able to reach such altitudes.

But South Korean media



South Korean soldiers adjust the volume of a propaganda broadcast near the border with North Korea as the country responds to the latest missile test. AP

said the images of a rocket rising through the clouds was in fact taken from footage of a SCUD missile test broadcast

in 2014.

North Korea first announced in May that it had conducted a successful SLBM

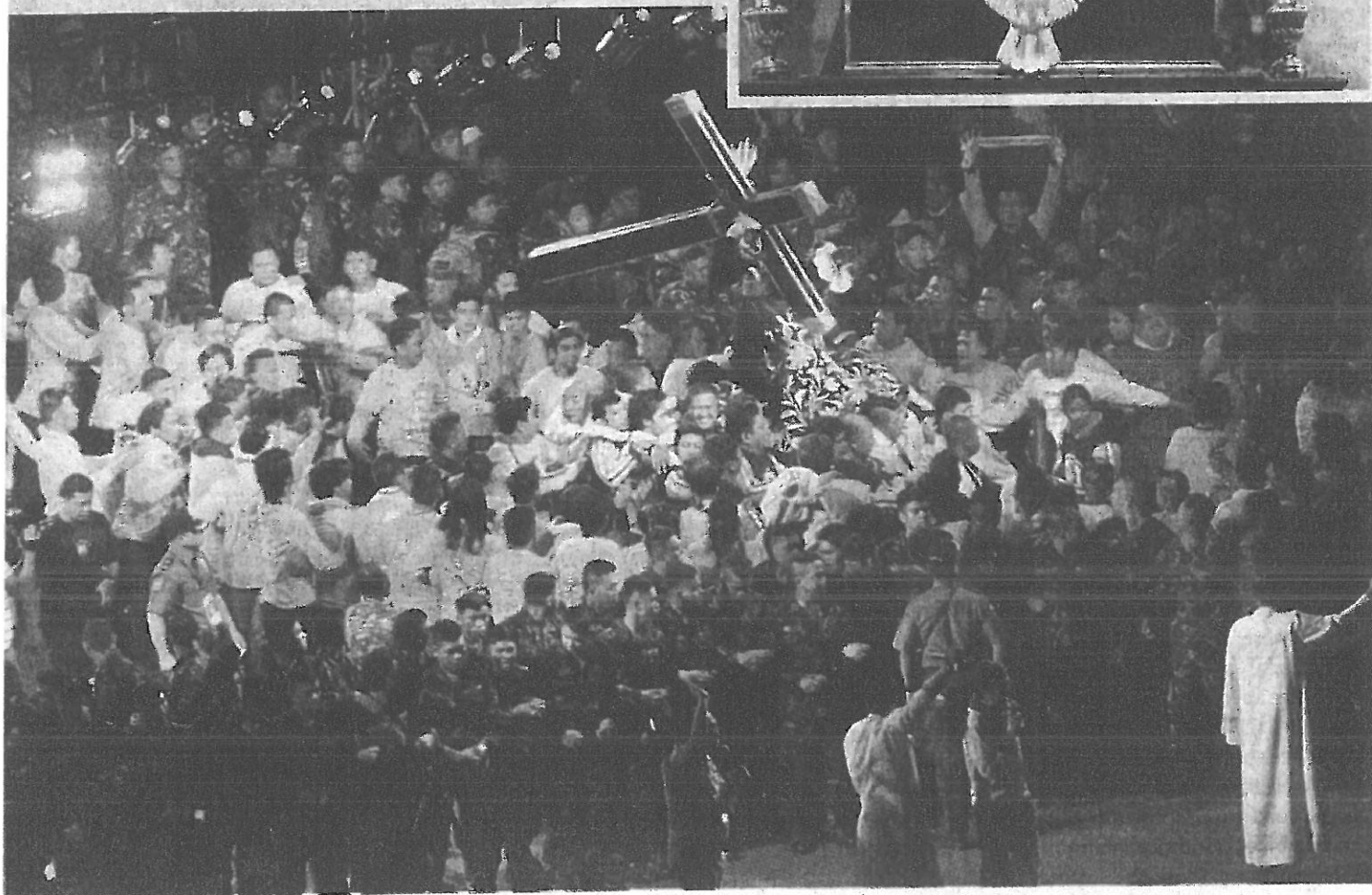
test, a claim accompanied by pictures of Kim pointing at the missile as it blasted out of the water at a 45-degree angle.

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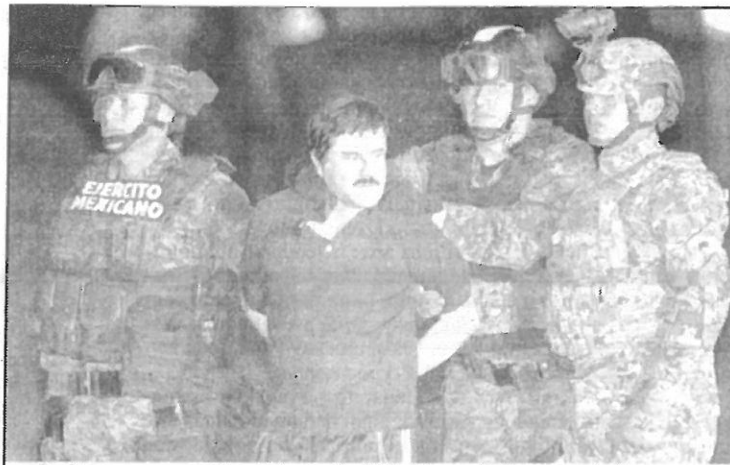
■ Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle delivers a sermon during the midnight mass at Rizal Park (right) lower photo shows soldiers encircling the carriage bearing the Black Nazarene at the start of the procession. PHOTOS BY RUSSEL PALMA AND CZAR DANCEL



10 January 2016



Pahina. 3



Iniharap sa media si Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman habang may mga naka-escort pasakay ng helicopter na nakaposas, ng mga sundalong Mexican at Marines sa federal hangar sa Mexico City, Mexico nitong Biyernes. Inihayag ni Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto na si Guzman ay nahuli makalipas ang anim na buwan matapos itong tumakas mula sa maximum security prison. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

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AFP FOCUS

Security experts fear European 9/11 in 2016

BY MICHEL MOUTOT
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS: Just a week into the year, France has already been rattled by an attempted attack on a police station, but counter-terrorism officials have far graver fears for Europe in 2016.

November's attacks in Paris, in which 130 people were killed by Islamic State group jihadists, showed the trauma that could be caused by a group of men with Kalashnikov rifles, but experts fear it could be just the start.

"Unfortunately, I think 2015 was nothing," a counter-terrorism official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"We are moving towards a European 9/11: simultaneous attacks on the same day in several countries, several places. A very coordinated thing. We know the terrorists are working on this," he added.

He said the Islamic State group was recruiting and training Europeans "with the goal of sending them back to hit their countries of origin."

"They have the necessary false documents, the mastery of the language, the sites, the weapons. We stop a lot of them, but it must be recognised that we are overwhelmed. Some will get through -- some already have."

Recent arrests of jihadists returning from Syria and Iraq have added to concerns, he said.

"The profiles are changing. We are seeing ultra-radical guys return, very battle-hardened, who should have stayed over there.

"Before we mostly had guys returning who had made a mistake, who didn't realise that war can be painful. But now, we are seeing guys return who are sticking to their chosen path."

Rapid response needed

Faced with an enemy that is happy to die and maximize civilian casualties, the challenge for France's security forces is to massively speed up response times.

"There will always be a delay for intervention forces that we have to reduce as much as possible," Colonel Hubert Bonneau, head of the elite GIGN police, told AFP.

"In the Bataclan, the killing of 90 people took 20 minutes. It stops when there is the opposition of security forces," he said, referring to the attack on a Paris concert hall on November 13.

It took two-and-a-half hours for police to storm the concert hall as they tried to gather information on

the layout of the building and position of the jihadists.

Bonneau said this new type of threat meant there were no classic hostage situations such as in the past.

"Hostages are just a buffer to slow the progress of security forces. If we don't intervene as quickly as possible there will be more victims. That's the lesson to draw from the attacks of November 13, that will change our mode of intervention.

"We need to have surgical action, as forceful as possible and as quickly as possible," he said.

'Just a rehearsal'

Multiple, pan-European plots are not new and have been disrupted on several occasions, including one in late August 2010, said Yves Trotignon, a former analyst for France's DGSE intelligence service.

"At that time, it was still Al-Qaeda," he said.

"The teams were due to arrive in western Europe, recover pre-placed material -- handguns and assault rifles. It was disrupted by the Americans, who carried out a series of preventative drone strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan against the guys thought to be mounting the operation.

"This type of multiple attack is part of the worst-case scenarios for 2016," said Trotignon.

"I know that in European capitals, particularly London, specialized services are working on this theory."

Police, military and intelligence services are constantly adapting to the shape-shifting threat, but so are the other side and often more quickly and effectively, the specialists said.

"It's not just us that learn the lessons, it's the Islamic State as well," said the counter-terrorism official.

He said a key lesson was to stay away from telephones, which have often been a key way to monitor potential attackers.

"They take lessons from the press investigations, read everything on the subject. They saw that it took two-and-a-half hours to launch the police raid at the Bataclan," said Trotignon.

They also saw that "the explosives weren't good, that they must be changed, that the guys left too many traces. They learn fast."

"If the quality of the attackers improves, we will have a problem," he said, adding that there was a "terrible pessimism" among security service professionals for 2016.

"Maybe we will say that 2015 was just a rehearsal," he added.

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<http://www.bomboradyo.com/>

Pwersa ng NPA lalo pang humihina - AFP

By Bombo Jerald Ulep

Bumaba pa ang bilang ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa pagtatapos ng taong 2015 base sa report ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Sinabi ni AFP Chief of Staff General Hernando Iriberry, na mula sa 4,443 noong 2014 ay naging 3,926 na lamang ang miyembro ng NPA sa katapusan ng taong 2015. Ito ay dahil pa rin sa pagsisikap ng AFP na pulbusin ang pwersa ng rebeldeng grupo. Aniya, ngayong taon ay na-dismantle na ng militar ang 13 guerilla fronts, nalinisan ang 292 barangay na apektado ng NPA at nakahuli ng 31 top NPA personalities. Dahil dito, naniniwala ang AFP na patuloy nang humihina ang pwersa ng NPA. Sa katunayan bumaba rin umano ang mga dumalong supporters ng grupo sa anibersaryo ng NPA. Mula sa dating 10,000 na dumadalo noong mga nakaraang taon ay nasa 2,000 na lamang ang dumalo noong Disyembre 26. "They were not able to celebrate their anniversary. Hindi na nila kayang mag-muster ng tao," ani Iriberry.

<http://www.bomboradyo.com/>

PAF chief Lt. Gen. Delgado, pinarangalan bilang outstanding PMA alumnus

By Bombo Baguio

BAGUIO CITY - Pinarangalan nang Outstanding Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alumnus Award si Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Delgado, ang commanding general ng Philippine Air Force (PAF). Sa mensahe nito, sinabi ni Delgado na ang kanilang legacy ay dapat pangalagaan nang mga papalit sa kanila at dapat ding ipagpatuloy kung ano ang kanilang nasimulan. Aniya, ang mga bubuo sa susunod na henerasyon ng mga opisyal ay dapat ipagpatuloy ang pagbabago para maging mas magandang organisasyon ang PAF o ang buong Armed Forces of the Philippines. Dagdag pa niya, magiging makabuluhan lamang ang mga values at learning experiences ng mga kadete sa akademya kung kanila itong pangangatawanan sa kanilang buong karera. Si Delgado ay pumasok sa PMA noong 1978 at kabilang sa Sandigan Class of 1982. Naging instructor ito sa combat pilot at commander ng iba't ibang division ng PAF. Sa loob ng 34 taon na paninilbihan nito sa AFP ay nakatipon ito ng maraming parangal. Ang Outstanding PMA Alumnus Award ay karaniwang iginagawad ng PMA bilang pagkilala sa mga nagawa nang nagtapos sa akademya na malapit nang magretiro. Si Delgado ay nakataklang magretiro ngayong taon.

<http://www.bomboradyo.com/>

Air Force man, pinatay sa Jolo, Sulu

By Bombo Mars deSan

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Hindi pa matukoy ngayon ng mga otoridad ang pagkakakilanlan ng salarin na responsable sa pamamaril at pagpatay sa isang aktibong kasapi ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) sa lalawigan ng Sulu.

Una nang kinilala ni B/Gen. Alan Arrojado ang biktima na si Andrew Burias Nono, 27, isang enlisted personnel at residente ng Scott Road, Barangay San Raymundo, Jolo nang naturang lalawigan.

Inihayag ni Arrojado na dakong alas-5:00 ng hapon kahapon nang barilin nang hindi nakilalang suspek ang biktima partikular sa likurang bahagi ng simbahan sa lugar.

Nabatid na ang biktima ay naka-assign sa 55th Strike Wing na nakabase sa Sangley Point, Cavite.

Itinakbo pa sa ospital ang biktima pero hindi na ito umabot ng buhay.

Inaalam na rin ng otoridad kung may kaugnayan sa kanyang trabaho ang pagpatay sa biktima.

<http://www.bomboradyo.com/>

2 Palestinians na nagtangka manaksak ng Israeli soldier, patay

By Bombo Leizl Galan

JERUSALEM - Patay ang dalawang Palestinians na nagtangkang manaksak ng mga sundalo sa Israel sa checkpoint sa West Bank.

Ayon sa Israeli military, nabaril ng kanilang puwersa ang mga suspek, sanhi ng pagkamatay ng mga ito.

Ang insidente ay pinakahuli sa higit tatlong buwan nang halos araw-araw na pang-aatake ng Palestinians sa mga sundalo at sibilyan sa Israel.

Nasa 137 Palestinians na ang napatay habang 21 naman sa panig ng Israel.

Ayon sa Israel, ang karahasan ay dahil sa kampanya ng Palestine na pag-aaklas laban sa Jerusalem.

Sinabi naman ng Palestine na ito ay dahil puno na ang mga Palestinians sa ilang dekada na umanong pananakop ng Israel. (AP)

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

Technical limitations hindering monitoring of disputed islands –AFP

From GMA News

The military on Thursday admitted that technical limitation is making it difficult for them to monitor the reported Chinese activities in the Kagitingan Reef (Fiery Cross Reef).

"To be honest about it, hindi pa tayo ganung capable. We don't have that technical capability to really monitor, so we are relying on some other means of monitoring katulad ng nakita sa video," said Rear Admiral Alexander Lopez, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Western Command.

Lopez made the admission a day after China landed two test flights on the artificial island located in West Philippine Sea, a disputed part of the South China Sea being claimed by the Philippines.

The two flights are likely to spark further condemnation from Vietnam, which launched a formal diplomatic protest over the weekend, and the Philippines, which said it was planning to do the same.

A report on China's Xinhua news agency said the test flights proved that the airport had "the capacity to ensure the safe operation of large civilian aircraft," though it did not provide details on the type of aircraft that landed.

"Ali face value, they even say that they are civilian structures, but they also stated na they can be used for military purposes... They are for civilians but they can be used for military purposes," Lopez said.

The runway at the Kagitingan Reef is 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) long and is one of three China has been building for more than a year by dredging sand up onto reefs and atolls in the Spratly archipelago.

Lopez believes that completing their bases on Kagitingan Reef, Mischief Reef, and Subi Reef will embolden China to increase patrols in the area.

"We will protest, record them, monitor them and file the necessary protest before the proper courts or before the proper agencies, international agencies," he said.

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

South China Sea Controversy: Chinese Military Aircraft Likely To Take Off From Spratly Islands in First Half Of 2016, Ex-Army Official Says

From the International Business Times



A Philippine Navy personnel stands in front of an Agusta Westland AW109 helicopter before it takes off during the bilateral maritime exercise between the Philippine Navy and U.S. Navy dubbed as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT 2014), aboard the Philippine Navy vessel BRP Ramon Alcaraz in the South China Sea near waters claimed by Beijing, June 28, 2014. Photo: Getty Images/AFP/NOEL CELIS

The Chinese military will soon use a new airport in a disputed part of South China Sea's Spratly Islands to perform test flights, a retired major general in the country's People's Liberation Army told the South China Morning Post Friday. China angered Japan, Vietnam and the United States Saturday by landing a plane on the airport Fiery Cross Reef, known as Yongshu Reef in the country.

Retired major general Xu Guangyu told the newspaper that the Chinese military will patrol the South China Sea using the airport, which will mainly serve civilian purposes, such as rescue work and transport of goods. "Military aircraft will take off from there sooner or later. Very likely within the first half of the year," Xu said, noting that civil flight tests on the runway meant it was qualified for military use.

According to Xu, the runway — nearly 2-miles long — is convenient for fighter planes, bomb carriers, scout planes and helicopters, the daily reported. "Airports in the centre of the South China Sea, such as on the Fiery Cross Reef and Mischief Reef, will be beneficial to security in the South China Sea," Xu told the newspaper.

Late in December 2015, Chinese defense m

inistry spokesperson Yang Yujun said that the military was building a second aircraft carrier. The aircraft carrier will be a 50,000-ton ship capable of holding the military's J-15 fighter jets, Yang said. The first aircraft carrier was commissioned from a former Russian vessel in 2012.

Beijing has been expanding its claim in the South China Sea and has built three runways on the Spratly archipelago. The civilian aircraft landing last Saturday was the first one on Fiery Cross Reef.

Vietnam protested the landing and the Philippines also said it would. Both countries have overlapping claims with China.

The South China Sea region has been long disputed, with Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam laying claim to various areas. China has claimed a large portion of the sea, which accounts for an important economic maritime area. However, China has repeatedly defended its actions, saying it does not have any intentions of starting a conflict and that aircraft facilities will maintain safety in the region.