

Army Vision: By 2038, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

08 May 2016

Sunday

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

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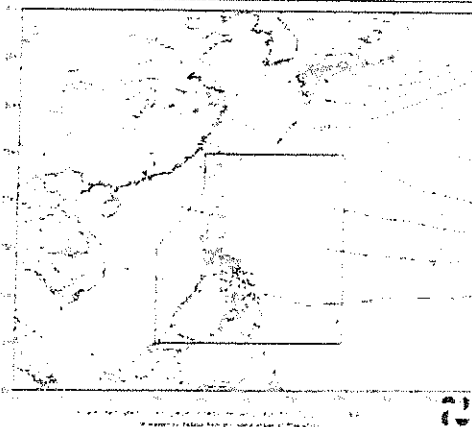
24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 07 MAY 2016

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

SYNOPSIS: RIDGE OF A HIGH PRESSURE AREA (HPA) AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON. EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON, OF VISAYAS AND OF MINDANAO.

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER THE PROVINCES OF SARANGANI, SOUTH COTABATO, DAVAO DEL SUR AND DAVAO ORIENTAL. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS MOSTLY IN THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING WILL PREVAIL OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.



LIGHT TO MODERATE WINDS BLOWING FROM THE EAST TO SOUTHEAST WILL PREVAIL OVER NORTHERN LUZON AND FROM THE EAST TO NORTHEAST FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THE COASTAL WATERS THROUGHOUT THE ARCHIPELAGO WILL BE SLIGHT TO MODERATE.

PAGTAYA: MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN AT PULU-PULONG PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA MGA LALAWIGAN NG SARANGANI, SOUTH COTABATO, DAVAO DEL SUR AT DAVAO ORIENTAL. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG LALO NA SA DAKONG HAPON O GABI ANG IIRAL SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NATITIRANG BAHAGI NG BANSA.

MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG HANGIN MULA SA SILANGAN HANGGANG TIMOG-SILANGAN ANG IIRAL SA HILAGANG LUZON AT MULA NAMAN SA SILANGAN HANGGANG HILAGANG-SILANGAN SA NATITIRANG BAHAGI NG BANSA. ANG MGA BAYBAYING-DAGAT SA BUONG KAPULUAN AY MAGIGING BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 4:00 PM TODAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 1:50 PM TODAY — 35.7°C		MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 6:00 AM TODAY — 78%	
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 6:00 AM TODAY — 25.5°C		MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 1:50 PM TODAY — 43%	
TIDAL PREDICTIONS ALONG MANILA BAY (Courtesy of NAMRIA)		OVER METRO MANILA:	
LOW TIDE TODAY: 5:21 PM -0.10 METER	SUNRISE / SUNSET		MOONRISE / MOONSET AND ILLUMINATION
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 11:47 PM 0.53 METER	SUNSET TODAY: 6:14 PM		MOONSET TODAY: 6:49 PM
LOW TIDE TOMORROW: 3:32 AM 0.37 METER	SUNRISE TOMORROW: 5:30 AM		MOONRISE TOMORROW: 6:46 AM
HIGH TIDE TOMORROW: 10:40 AM 1.16 METER	SUNSET TOMORROW: 6:15 PM		ILLUMINATION TOMORROW: 2 %

For more information and queries, please call at telephone numbers 927-1335 and 927-2877 or log on to www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph.

PREPARED BY: SJII

CHECKED BY: JSG

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WPC, Bldg. Road Diliman, Quezon City

































































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






24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:

ISSUED AT: 5:00 PM 07 MAY 2016

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 PM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 PM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast from 5PM today until 5PM tomorrow			Extended Weather Outlook Duration: 5PM until 5PM of the following day				
	07 MAY			08 MAY	09 MAY	10 MAY	11 MAY	
Metro Manila		26°C 30°C	Light to Moderate East Manila Bay: Slight to Moderate		26°C 30°C		26°C 30°C	
Tuguegarao City		25°C 30°C	Moderate East - Southeast		25°C 30°C		26°C 30°C	
Laoag City		25°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East - Southeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		25°C 34°C		26°C 33°C	
Baguio City		17°C 26°C	Light to Moderate East - Southeast		17°C 26°C		17°C 27°C	
SBMA (Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)		26°C 35°C	Light to Moderate East Suba Bay: Slight to Moderate		26°C 35°C		26°C 35°C	
Tagaytay City		23°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East		23°C 32°C		23°C 33°C	
Lipa City		24°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East		25°C 34°C		24°C 35°C	
Legazpi City		27°C 33°C	Moderate East Coastal Waters: Moderate		27°C 33°C		26°C 33°C	
Puerto Princesa City		27°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		27°C 34°C		26°C 34°C	
Iloilo City / Bacolod City		26°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		26°C 32°C		25°C 34°C	
Metro Cebu		27°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		27°C 32°C		27°C 32°C	
Tacloban City		25°C 32°C	Moderate East Coastal Waters: Moderate		26°C 32°C		25°C 33°C	
Cagayan de Oro City		24°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East-Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		24°C 34°C		25°C 34°C	
Valencia City		19°C 32°C	Light to Moderate East-Northeast		19°C 32°C		20°C 32°C	
Metro Davao		28°C 35°C	Light to Moderate East-Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		26°C 34°C		26°C 34°C	
Zamboanga City		25°C 34°C	Light to Moderate East-Northeast Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate		25°C 34°C		25°C 35°C	

LEGEND:

	Clear skies		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rains		Rains with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy skies with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rains Rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers		Light Rains				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: SJII

CHECKED BY: JSG

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WFOC, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City

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04 May 2016



Page: 1

Comelec: We are preparing for May 9 as well as we can

Like a father waiting for his first child to be born.

That is how Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairman Andres Bautista summed up the mood for the May 9 national and local elections. Filipinos

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO
will elect a new president and 18,082 other new leaders in tomorrow's polls.

"We are preparing as well as we can. What I hope to happen is whoever wins will be ac-

ceptable and respected by the people," said Bautista.

Tomorrow's polls will give one seat each for president and vice president, 12 for senators, 59 for party-list, 238 for

Turn to Page 11

Comelec From Page 1

members of the House of Representatives; 81 each for governors and vice governors; 776 for members of Sangguniang Panlalawigan; 1,634 each for mayor and vice mayor; 13,540 for Sangguniang Panlungsod/Pambayan; one each for Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor and vice governor; and 24 for ARMM regional assemblymen.

The Comelec said there are 44,872 candidates vying for these positions, while the number of registered voters reached 54.3 million.

Bautista noted that with the polls two days away, he feels like a father waiting for his first born to be delivered. "All I hope for is for the delivery to

be fast and smooth."

Very close contest

Mass murder advocate Rodrigo Duterte heads into tomorrow's elections as the shock favorite, but with rivals still having a chance to counter his profanity-laced populist tirades.

Duterte, a pugnacious 71-year-old, has rocked the political establishment with cuss-filled vows to kill tens of thousands of criminals, threats to establish one-man rule if lawmakers disobey him and promises to embrace communist rebels.

He has also caused disgust in international diplomatic circles with a joke that he

wanted to rape a "beautiful" Australian missionary who was killed in a 1989 Philippine prison riot, and boasted repeatedly on the campaign trail about his Viagra-fueled affairs.

President Aquino, whose mother led the democracy movement that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos a generation ago, has warned the nation is at risk of succumbing to another dictatorship.

But Duterte's anti-establishment rhetoric and promises of quick fixes to deep-rooted problems have proved hypnotic for millions of Filipinos, and he heads into tomorrow's election with an 11-percentage-point lead over his rivals, according to the latest survey.

Sen. Grace Poe, the adopted daughter of a late movie star, and establishment bedrock

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Mar Roxas are tied in second place. Vice President Jejomar Binay, the early favorite, has fallen to fourth place under the weight of a barrage of corruption allegations.

While Duterte, the long-time mayor of Davao City, is undeniably the favorite, he lacks the sophisticated political machinery of some of his rivals and is not guaranteed victory, according to Manila-based political analyst Earl Parreno.

Roxas, a US-educated investment banker who served as interior and transport secretaries in Aquino's administration, is in the strongest position to challenge, Parreno, from the Institute of Political and Electoral Reforms, told *AFP*.

Roxas can expect a boost of about five percentage points from the machinery of the

Liberal Party, which can use its money and influence to get people into voting booths, according to Parreno.

"We also still have the undecided. It's going to be a very, very close fight, a neck and neck fight, between Duterte and Roxas," Parreno said.

No to partisan politics

Comelec chairman Bautista as well as Philippine National Police chief Director General Ricardo Marquez and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda also reiterated their commitment not to engage in partisan politics.

Marquez told a press briefing that they have trained policemen to substitute for teachers as Board of Election

Inspectors in case the teachers refuse to render poll duties because of the dangerous conditions in their respective localities.

"We have prepared long and hard for this election... We are aiming for credible elections and a smooth transition of power," Marquez added.

On accusations that the election results might be rigged, Bautista said the Comelec has already restored all the four security features of the system.

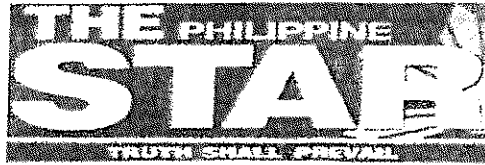
"We have supplemented all the safeguards that are provided for under Republic Act 8436 as amended by Republic A9369, including the ultraviolet lamps, digital signatures, source code review and the vote verifiable audit trail," he added.

– With *AFP*

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08 May 2016



Page: 1

Bukidnon mayoral bet shot dead

By GERRY LEE GORIT

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Two days before the elections, a mayoral bet in Lantapan, Bukidnon was shot to death inside his home yesterday.

The killing was believed to be triggered by intense political rivalry in the province, police said.

Armando Ceballos,

a resident of Barangay Balila, was sleeping in his room when about 10 bonnet-wearing men shot him several times in the back.

Chief Supt. Jose Gentiles, regional police director, said the suspects were on board a cargo truck and entered the residential compound

Turn to Page 12

Bukidnon

From Page 1

where Ceballos was living.

Before leaving the crime scene, the attackers took away a .45 caliber handgun and about P80,000 in cash.

Police said Ceballos was rushed to the hospital but died two hours later.

Spent shells believed to be from M14 and M16 rifles were found at the crime scene.

Supt. Surki Sereñas, regional police spokesman, told **The STAR** that they have yet to determine if Ceballos' killing is election-related, but many believe that it was due to political rivalry.

Ceballos was an independent candidate running against Ernie Devibar in the town's mayoral race. – **With Cecille Suerte Felipe**

68 May 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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1,000-man Task Force CHOP activated in Maguindanao

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

COTABATO CITY — The Maguindanao-based Sixth Infantry Division (6th ID) has activated its 1,000-member security task force to help ensure peaceful proceedings in Monday's polls in Central Mindanao, especially in areas of electoral concern in the province.

Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, 6ID commanding general, has tapped his division's chief-of-staff Col. Romeo Brawner as head of the Task Force CHOP (clean, honest, orderly and peaceful elections).

Discussions during the task force's ceremonial revival said Brawner and his men will be backed by dozens of combat vehicles, tanks and motorized watercrafts for security operations in far-flung areas, particularly in marshlands and polling precincts along rivers

across the adjoining North Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces.

Pangilinan said the group, which will also be beefed up by snipers, will operate under the supervision of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), which earlier classified Maguindanao as one of country's eight "areas of immediate concern."

"These men will engage without any hesitation saboteurs or armed groups out to derail the conduct of the elections in any of the municipalities under the jurisdiction of the 6th ID," Pangilinan told reporters.

The task force was presented at the 6th ID's parade ground southwest of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao on Thursday afternoon by Pangilinan and Major Gen. Eduardo Año, the Philippine Army chief.

Pangilinan said the election security duties of the task force would be coordi-

nated properly with the ceasefire bodies of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The MILF had earlier said it will reposition its forces away from guerrilla enclaves near polling centers before May 9 for Comelec personnel and teachers to freely operate and serve voting folks without security apprehensions.

News about the activation of the task force was welcomed by officials and residents of Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

The Army contingent is a revival of the erstwhile Task Force HOPE (honest, orderly and peaceful elections), which was credited for helping restore in the 2010 elections among Maguindanao voters their rights of suffrage allegedly crippled in political exercises prior to the infamous Nov. 23, 2009 election-related Ampatuan massacre.

08 May 2016



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3 dead, 4 hurt in Isabela ambush

By RAYMUND CATINDIG

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Three persons were killed and four others were wounded when suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked a convoy of a candidate for mayor in Jones, Isabela yesterday.

A report received by Isabela police chief Senior Superintendent Leon Rafael identified the victims as Lydia Zapata, 52, Senior Police Officer 4 Arthur Anunciacion, 54, and security personnel Roderick Eugenio, 51.

Council bet Rhoda Anunciacion, 45, chairman

of Barangay Uno and wife of the slain police officer; her son Reignzel Anunciacion, 12; Julius Julian, 27, and driver Samuel Bulusan, 39, remain confined at the Jones Community Hospital.

Initial investigation showed the victims were in an Isuzu Crosswind with Vice Mayor Melanie Uy, who is running for mayor, when they were waylaid along the highway in Barangay Naminama around 8:30 a.m.

Responding soldiers from the 86th Infantry Battalion

were also shot by the rebels, triggering a firefight.

Police set up checkpoints in Barangays Diarao and San Isidro to prevent the rebels from escaping.

Comelec control

Jones town, aside from Pantar town in Lanao del Norte, Abra and Marawi City were placed under the control of the Commission on Elections. Under Resolution 10074, an area is placed under Comelec control if it has a history of intense political rivalry, pres-

ence of private armed groups, loose firearms and threats from the NPA, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, Abu Sayyaf and other paramilitary forces.

Last month, Barangay San Isidro chairman Heinrich Apostol, who was running for councilor, was gunned down.

Vice Mayor Ronaldo Lucas, whom Uy replaced and was seized by NPA rebels during a campaign sortie last month, was found dead. The rebels owned up the killing,

saying Lucas was behind the killing of Vice Mayor Florante Raspado during a session of the municipal council last year.

In Negros Occidental, a close-in security of a candidate for mayor was wounded in a gunfight with a supporter of another candidate yesterday.

131 incidents

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it has recorded 131 possible election-related incidents since April 16.

During the launching of

the national elections monitoring and action center at Camp Crame yesterday, PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez urged the 160,000-member police force to ensure the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections.

"I told our personnel the importance of their commitment because we are playing a very important role. Let us guard the people's vote well in this election," Marquez told reporters.

– With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Jaime Laude

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Bomb blasts hit Masbate

CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City – Four explosions occurred near a public elementary school to be used as a voting center in Cataingan town in Masbate on Wednesday.

Initial investigation showed that two of the blasts occurred 50 and 150 meters away from the Divisoria Elementary School, where the vote counting machines and other election paraphernalia to be used tomorrow were stored.

No one was reported hurt

or any property damaged during the blasts, police said.

An investigation into the attack is ongoing.

The Southern Luzon Command has ordered its personnel to remain vigilant and secure the periphery of the schools to be used as voting centers.

Last month, grenades and anti-tank rockets were fired at six school buildings to be used as polling precincts in Maguindanao.

– Michelle Zoleta, Jaime Laude

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4 explosions recorded near Masbate school

Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) units were deployed in Cataingan, Masbate after four successive explosions were recorded near the Divisoria Elementary School last May 4.

In a statement Saturday, Solcom spokesman Lt. Col. Angelo Guzman said the blasts took place 9:30 a.m.

The incidents were reported to authorities by Barangay Divisoria Chairman Junrey Alcaraz.

Initial investigations conducted by the Cataingan Municipal Police Station indicated that two of the four explosions happened at 50 meters and 150 meters distance, respectively,

from the school where Vote Counting Machines (VCMs) and other election paraphernalia were stored.

No casualty or damage to property were recorded. Moreover, the VCMs and other election paraphernalia were intact and secured.

Guzman said the police were now conducting further investigations on the incidents.

The Solcom has directed all soldiers deployed on election duties to be more vigilant and to ensure that the periphery of voting centers are clear of IEDs for the safety of all voters and board of election inspectors.

PNA

68 May 2016



Page. 3

4 dead, 5 wounded in election violence

By ELENA L. ABEN

Four persons, including a mayoral candidate, were killed while five others were wounded in separate incidents two days before the May 9 synchronized elections.

The first incident occurred in Bukidnon where a mayoral candidate identified as Armando Ceballes was shot by armed men at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday in Barangay Balila, Lantapan.

Supt. Surki Serenas, spokesman, Northern Mindanao police, said the victim was rushed to the Polymedic Hospital in Malaybalay City but eventually died due to his bullet wounds.

The gunmen reportedly used M16 and M14 rifles in the attack, based on the spent shells recovered from the crime scene.

In Jones, Isabela, three persons died while four others were wounded when armed men ambushed a convoy of supporters of mayoral bet Vice Mayor Melanie Uy.

Major Gina Daet, public affairs officer, Armed Forces of the Philippines-Northern Luzon Command, said the ambush occurred on the highway in Barangay Namnama, Jones, at around 7:40 a.m. yesterday.

A report from the Isabela police said Uy's group, together with her sister, Barangay Chairman Esperanza Rhoda Anunciacion, who is running for councilor, were on their way to campaign in Barangay Namnama when they were fired upon by unidentified armed men.



SOLDIERS break up a scuffle between a supporter of local candidate and a female soldier pinned underneath during a military operation to deliver ballot counting machines in Madalum, Lanao del Sur Friday. (Reuters)

Three people, identified as Arthur Anunciacion, 54; Lydia Zapata, 52; and Roderick Eugenio, driver, were killed in the attack, according to a report by Senior Supt. Leon DG Rafael of the Isabela police office.

Wounded were Esperanza Rhoda Anunciacion, 45; Reignzel Art Anunciacion, 12; Julius Julian, 27; and Samuel Bulusan, 39, farmer.

Personnel of the Jones police station immediately conducted a checkpoint in Barangay Diarao and San Isidro in Jones in an effort to intercept and arrest the suspects.

Daet said troops from Alpha Company, 86th Infantry Battalion were deployed to reinforce government forces in the area.

While on their way to the ambush site at around 10:45 a.m., the soldiers were fired upon by the same group of armed men that

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staged the attack against Uy's supporters. This triggered an encounter, and as of noon, Daet said pursuit operation was still ongoing.

She said no reports of casualties or wounded from the government side have been reported as of press time.

Daet said Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo personally visited the different provinces under his area of command, including Abra, which is among those considered as an election hot spot.

Tanalgo's visit aimed to ensure security preparations of the different field units of the AFP Nolcom.

Aside from Abra, others areas under Nolcom considered as election hot spots are Jones, Isabela; Kalinga, and some parts of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

In Negros Occidental, a security of a local official in Isabela was wounded in an attack by unidentified armed men.

Reports reaching the AFP national election monitoring center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City showed the incident transpired at around 9:45 a.m.

The AFP Southern Luzon Command reported four successive explosions that occurred near Divisoria Elementary School in Cataingan, Masbate at around 9:30 a.m. last Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Angelo Guzman, Solcom public affairs officer, said the incident was reported by Barangay Chairman Junrey Alcaraz.

Initial investigation conducted by the Cataingan police showed that two of the explosions happened

at 50 meters and other 150 meters from the school where vote counting machines and other election paraphernalia are stored.

No casualty or damage to property was recorded. The VCM and other election paraphernalia were intact and secured, Guzman said.

Following the incident, the AFP Solcom has directed all its troops to be more vigilant and to ensure that the periphery of voting centers are clear of improvised bombs for the safety of all voters and board of election inspectors.

Reports reaching the AFP monitoring center showed that at 12:30 a.m. yesterday, the house of a barangay chairman in Sampoli-B, Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay was fired upon by armed men on board three vehicles. Nobody was reported killed or injured in the incident.

In Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, a hand grenade was lobbed at the billeting area for military and police personnel in the vicinity of the Simuay Elementary School. Troops have been alerted following the incident.

The military has almost completed the delivery of election equipment with the exception of Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, and Bukidnon.

"We will continue our operations to ensure that the people will have a safe and secure environment as they exercise their rights to vote this coming Monday," said Col. Noel Detoyato, the AFP public affairs office chief. **(with reports from Aaron B. Recuenco and Camcer Imam)**

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Legal assistance offered to teachers on poll duty

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Central Luzon is ready for the May 9 elections, and this includes tapping lawyers to help protect from harassment teachers who will man poll centers.

The 37,899 public school teachers tasked with poll duties in the region would have access for the first time to lawyers who would help them deal with cases of threats and violence.

A regional election task force would include eight legal officers who would handle issues involving teachers on election day, said Nicolas Capulong, assistant director of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Central Luzon.

Central Luzon is the region with

the third highest number of registered voters at 6,056,532. Each of the 20 school divisions in seven provinces and 14 cities in Central Luzon will be assigned a lawyer.

"This is the first time we are going to have lawyers to help our teachers in election-related situations," Capulong said.

A total of 27,354 teachers will serve as members of Boards of Election Inspectors and Special Boards of Election Inspectors. A total of 2,785 DepEd supervisors and 7,760 staff members will lend support.

Emmanuel Ignacio, assistant director of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Central Luzon, said the 2016 elections

would be the last time that public school teachers would render mandatory service. "In the next elections, their work will be voluntary," he said.

The Central Luzon police has fielded 8,329 police officers to guard and patrol polling centers and canvassing areas.

The Army's 7th Infantry Division is deploying 611 troopers.

The region has 20 areas on the election watch list, including nine in Nueva Ecija province.

Police said six election-related cases of violence had been recorded since the election season began. A total of 597 people were arrested for violating the

election gun ban imposed on Jan. 10.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in the Archdiocese of San Fernando in Pampanga province has mobilized 3,000 volunteers to monitor the delivery of vote counting machines (VCMs) and ballots, the final testing and sealing of VCMs and the conduct of the elections on May 9.

In Tarlac province, VCMs for the towns of Concepcion, Capas, Paniqui, Camiling and Gerona and Tarlac City arrived on Monday, said Gilbert Almario, provincial election supervisor.

He said VCMs had been installed in 1,229 clustered precincts in 17 Tarlac towns

and Tarlac City.

Also on Monday, police officers in Bulacan province and Baguio City signed their oaths of nonpartisanship and neutrality in the May 9 elections.

A total of 1,800 policemen are assigned to man polling places in 21 towns and three cities in Bulacan. *Reports from Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes-Estropo, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Gabriel Cardinosa, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

A TEACHER in Baguio City shows a ballot during testing of VCMs. Her counterparts in Central Luzon are assured of legal assistance if they encounter harassment.

EVE SPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



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AFP, PNP urged to remain neutral

By Alfred Dalizon

THE Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) and a group composed of "patriotic" members of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces, yesterday called on their active officers to stay apolitical and see to it that the sanctity of the votes will be protected.

The PMAAAI and the group dubbed Nationalist & Patriotic Army or "N.P.A." issued the call amid reports on alleged involvement of some police and military officers in partisan politicking and speculations of massive cheating in favor of some administration bets.

In a resolution signed by PMAAAI chairman ret. Police Deputy Director General Anselmo S. Avenido Jr., PMAAAI president Navy Captain Erick A. Kagaoan, and acting secretary Air Force Colonel Jess G. Estoesta, the group reminded its members who are in the active uniformed service to stay apolitical to ensure the conduct of honest, orderly, peaceful and credible elections on May 9.

Meanwhile, in a statement emailed to the Journal Group, the "N.P.A." group's spokesperson "Raul Romero," urged their fellow soldiers and policemen who are in the active service to be "professional by remaining apolitical and must not be involved or allow themselves to be used in any form of partisan political activity" in Monday's polls.

The group described itself as composed of "nationalistic and patriotic soldiers and policemen who are deeply concerned with the future of our country and welfare of the Filipino people."

"We must not participate, influence or intervene in this coming political exercise unless we are duly authorized by law to do so and in the exercise of our mandate to protect the sanctity of the ballot. We must leave politics to the politicians in the same manner that we expect that politicians leave military operations to the professional soldiers and policing to the professional policemen," the group said.

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Members of the Philippine Navy assist policemen in conducting checkpoints near the Anda Circle in Manila yesterday. MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

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Pahina. 4



18TH IB COMMANDER DENIES CHEATING IN ABSENTEE VOTING

THE commanding officer of the 18th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in Basilan, Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo "Bong" M. Lucero, denied allegations of massive cheating in the absentee voting administered by the Commission on Elections for his troops on April 27 in Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan.

This Facebook post that has started to go viral on Wednesday, May 4, claims that the troops have finished voting: "FLASH NEWS!"

Massive cheating is in place by the LP (Liberal Party) 18 IB Phil Army, Basilan... humana cla og butar for absente voting... igo nalong cla nagbutang sa ilang mga thumb... wala na cla nag-shade kay ang mga balota naka-shade na daan og Mar Roxas and party.. wala raw cla mahimo kay mao raw order sa ilang batalion commander." (The troops have done voting. All they did was affix their thumbmarks. They

didn't have to shade anymore because the ballots were already shaded with "Mar Roxas and party.")

The same Facebook post alleges that the troops had no choice but to follow the order of their commander.

When I spoke to Lt. Col. Lucero on Wednesday, he denied the allegation, saying that, in fact, he has reminded his troops of the importance of their right to suffrage.

"I reminded my men that the right to suffrage is the only right that remains to them. As soldiers, they cannot choose

where to live, they cannot choose where to be assigned.

"All their other rights have been taken from them except the right to suffrage, so they have to take advantage of the opportunity to exercise it," he said.

Lucero said the absentee voting was administered by Mahadee A. Annawie, Election Officer of Ungkayan Pukan, with the assistance of his battalion S1.

He said that in absentee voting, the voter writes down in a ballot the names of the candidates and that no shading

is being done.

He said that he was even not around at Ungkaya Pukan when the Comelec administered absentee voting to his troops as he was at the 104th Brigade in Isabela City with other military commanders for a workshop regarding the deployment of troops for the elections.

Col. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of the 104th Brigade in Basilan, said that "Retired General David", a supporter of Mayor Duterte, has called and was assured that no such irregularity happened.

ONLINE NEWS

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www.dwdd.com.ph

PRE-ELECTION CLASH | Army, NPA Encounter in Oas, Albay

Arvin Santiago May 7, 2016 6:00am (PST) dwdd.com.ph



CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City (DWDD) – Three (3) days before the elections, at around 5 p.m. of May 6, a squad of the 2nd Infantry Battalion encountered three (3) NPAs in Brgy Casinagan, Oas, Albay while on combat patrol.

The five (5) minute firefight yielded no casualty on both sides, however, the troops recovered one (1) bandoleer, 5 M16 magazines and a back pack at the encounter site.

As the election nears, Army units continue to conduct Internal Security Operations targeting the NPAs in order to preempt them from conducting atrocities that may disrupt the elections. **PIO SOLCOM / MCAG**

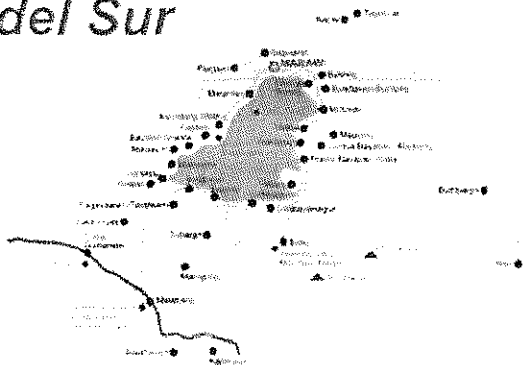
www.interaksyon.com

AFP: 140 teachers in Lanao del Sur backing out of BEI

By: Thom Andrade, InterAksyon.com

May 7, 2016 7:00 PM

Lanao del Sur



InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA - With two days left before the synchronized national and local elections, some 140 school teachers in the province of Lanao del Sur were reported to be backing out of their assigned roles with the

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local Board of Election Inspectors (BEI).

The AFP spokesman, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, on Saturday said during a video conference in Camp Aguinaldo with officials of the Commission on Election (Comelec) that the teachers are backing out due to fears for their safety.

Padilla added that personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) are now being trained as back up BEI for Lanao Del Sur, one of the nine provinces tagged earlier by the PNP as election hotspot.

"The PNP manpower there are also being augmented due to security concerns, as there candidates who declined to sign the peace covenant," Padilla said. "We will see to it that we have adequate forces sent to the hot spots,"

Padilla said one police company will be deployed to Lanao del Sur, and another to Lanao Del Norte, to be sent there via military transport.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) reported successive explosions near the Divisoria Elementary School in the town of Cataingan in Masbate Province at around 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 4, as relayed by Barangay Chairman Junrey Alcaraz.

Based on initial investigation by the Cataingan Municipal Police Station (MPS), two of the four explosions went off at 50 meters and 150 meters, respectively, from the school, where Vote Counting Machines (VCMs) and other election paraphernalia were being kept.

The Solcom report added that no casualty or damage to property where logged. Moreover, the VCMS and other election paraphernalia remained intact and secured, and that the Cataingan police is now conducting follow-up investigation regarding the matter.

www.dwdd.com.ph

IN COMMAND | COMELEC Chairman Andres Bautista met with AFP Area Commanders thru a teleconference

by Benjie May 7, 2013 1 Comment 0 replies

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – "...orderly, honest and credible. And I think this is where the Armed Forces, the PNP and the COMELEC share a joint objective. We are supposed to be non-partisan, we are neutral, we are here to implement and effect the will of the majority. That we allow people to campaign, we allow people to present their platforms, their discussions on important issues facing the nation in the hope that our people, our voters are informed about whom they think should be the best leader both in the national and the local. But after all is said and done, we at COMELEC are duty bound to respect the will of the majority. That regardless of our personal positions, our role really is ministerial.

Kaya nga makikita nyo siguro po yung aming slogan nitong darating na halalan ay 'Tamang Boto, Tamang Pagbilang' – na ang tungkulin ng bawat botante ay bumoto ng tama, ang responsibilidad ng COMELEC ay bumilang ng tama. Kailangan na kailangan natin yun, and in the end, I know also that after the processes provided by law are followed then it is now the responsibility of the Armed Forces together with the PNP to keep the peace and maintain law and order and, hopefully, this will further strengthen our democratic processes. So, maraming salamat po sa inyong tulong para siguraduhin na magiging maayos, mapayapa at kapanipaniwala and ating darating na halalan. Maraming salamat General Miranda."

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www.visayandailystar.com

NPA claims execution of soldier

BY GILBERT BAYORAN

The New People's Army summarily executed a civilian, a retired Army soldier, and an Army intelligence operative in Negros Occidental, within one month for which they claimed responsibility.

The latest was the killing of Cpl. Nelskie Marino on May 1 in Brgy. San Isidro, Toboso, that was claimed by the Roselyn Pelle Command of the NPA Northern Negros Guerilla Front.

In a statement furnished the Daily Star, the rebel group described Marino as a very active intelligence officer who was able to establish an effective intelligence network in the areas of Escalante, Toboso, Calatrava and San Carlos City, and psychological warfare against them.

Rebel spokesman Cecil Estrella also claimed that Marino served as the handler of their former comrades, whom she had labeled as traitors.

Estrella said a team of NPA who carried out the assassination, took a .45 caliber pistol with a magazine loaded with nine ammunition, his wallet containing documents with high intelligence value, and assorted identification cards.

This will serve as a warning to others, who are engaged in intelligence work, Estrella said.

On May 5, the NPA Leonardo Panaligan Command also claimed responsibility for the assassination of Magdaleno "Nonong" Grande, an alleged campaign leader of a mayoralty bet in Moises Padilla.

Grande, 54, elder brother of Moises Padilla councilor-candidate Agustin Grande, was shot in the head outside a cockpit in Brgy. Inolingán, Moises Padilla on May 1.

Ka Ann Jacinto, deputy spokesperson of the Leonardo Panaligan Command, alleged that Magdaleno had served as an informant of the Armed Forces of the Philippines against the rebel movement.

The same rebel group also issued a statement claiming responsibility for the killing of retired Philippine Army Sgt. Armand Secuya on March 28 in Brgy. Guinapana-an, Moises Padilla.

Ka JB Regalado, spokesperson of the Leonardo Panaligan Command, claimed that Secuya, although already retired from the military service, had been actively organizing BIN (Barangay Intelligence Network) and intelligence assets in Moises Padilla, La Castellana and Isabela.

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division vowed to exert all efforts to apprehend the rebel suspects involved in the series of killings.

Late last year, the NPA in southern Negros also claimed responsibility for the deaths of three CAFGU members in Cauayan town alone.* GPB

www.laht.com

Philippines Investigates Possible Abduction of Missing Spaniards in Malaysia

MANILA - Philippine authorities are investigating the possibility that the two Spaniards who went missing Monday while sailing in the waters of northeastern Malaysia have been kidnapped by the Islamist group Abu Sayyaf, officials said Friday.

"We have been investigating information that has come to us on the possibility that they were kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf," Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told EFE.

"There is no news at the moment and we have not received any confirmation yet," he added.

Spaniards David Hernandez and Marta Miguel disappeared along with a Chinese person and a Malaysian, while traveling in a boat from Balambangan Island towards the Kudat district in northern Borneo, which they should have reached in two hours.

Malaysian authorities have pointed to motor failure as the possible cause of the disappearance of the boat, which would have been swept away by the currents. They said they are yet considering the possibility of kidnapping by pirates.

"We can't reach this conclusion yet. Until now, we have no proof to make us think they may have been abducted. There has been no ransom demand," said Malaysia's First Admiral Mohamad Zubil bin Matsom, who is in charge of the operation.

The boat disappeared in the Sulu Sea located between Borneo Island and the southern Philippines, which is the base of jihadist groups like Abu Sayyaf, who frequently kidnap tourists and fishermen for ransom.