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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 May 2016

Monday

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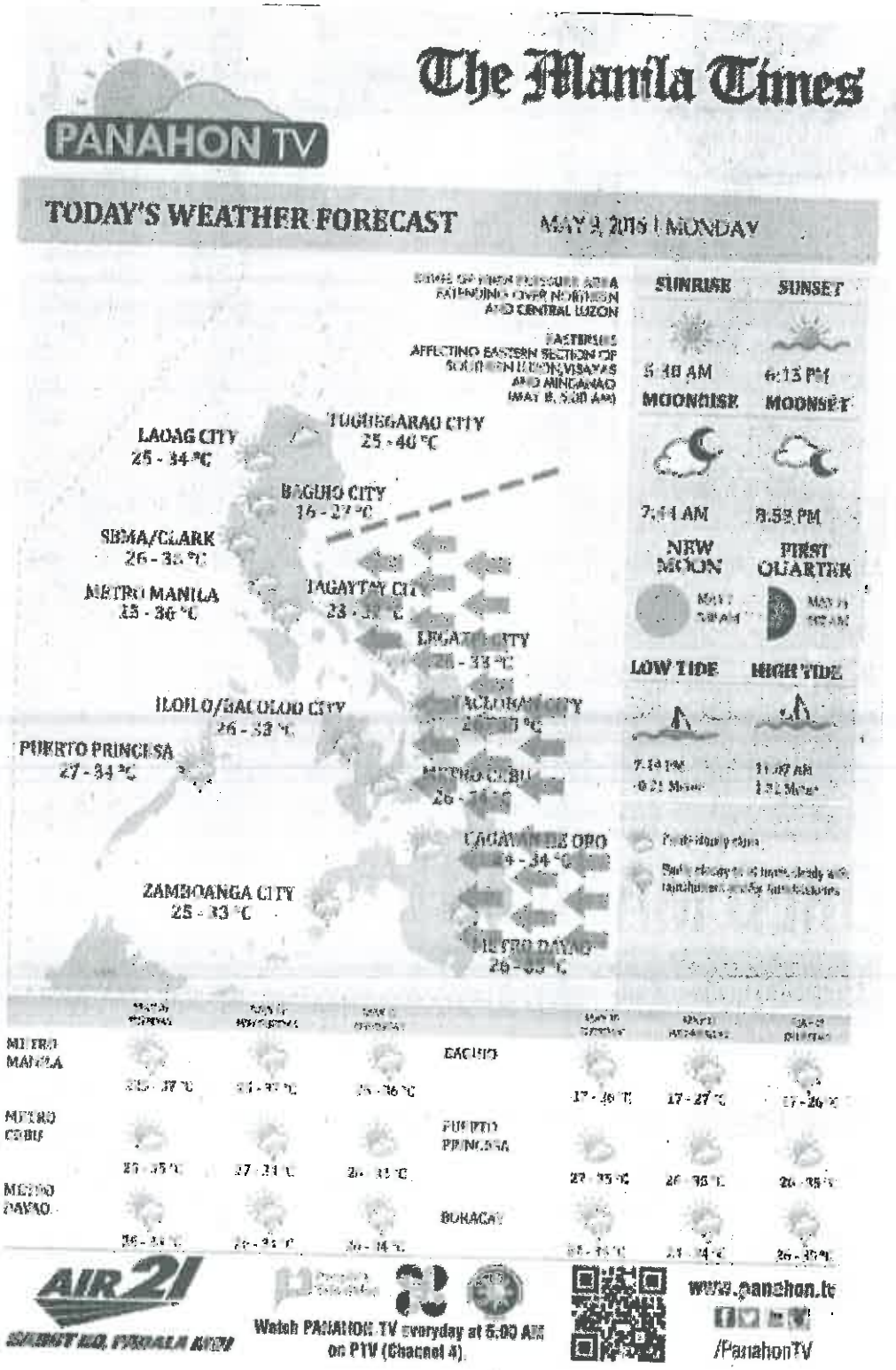

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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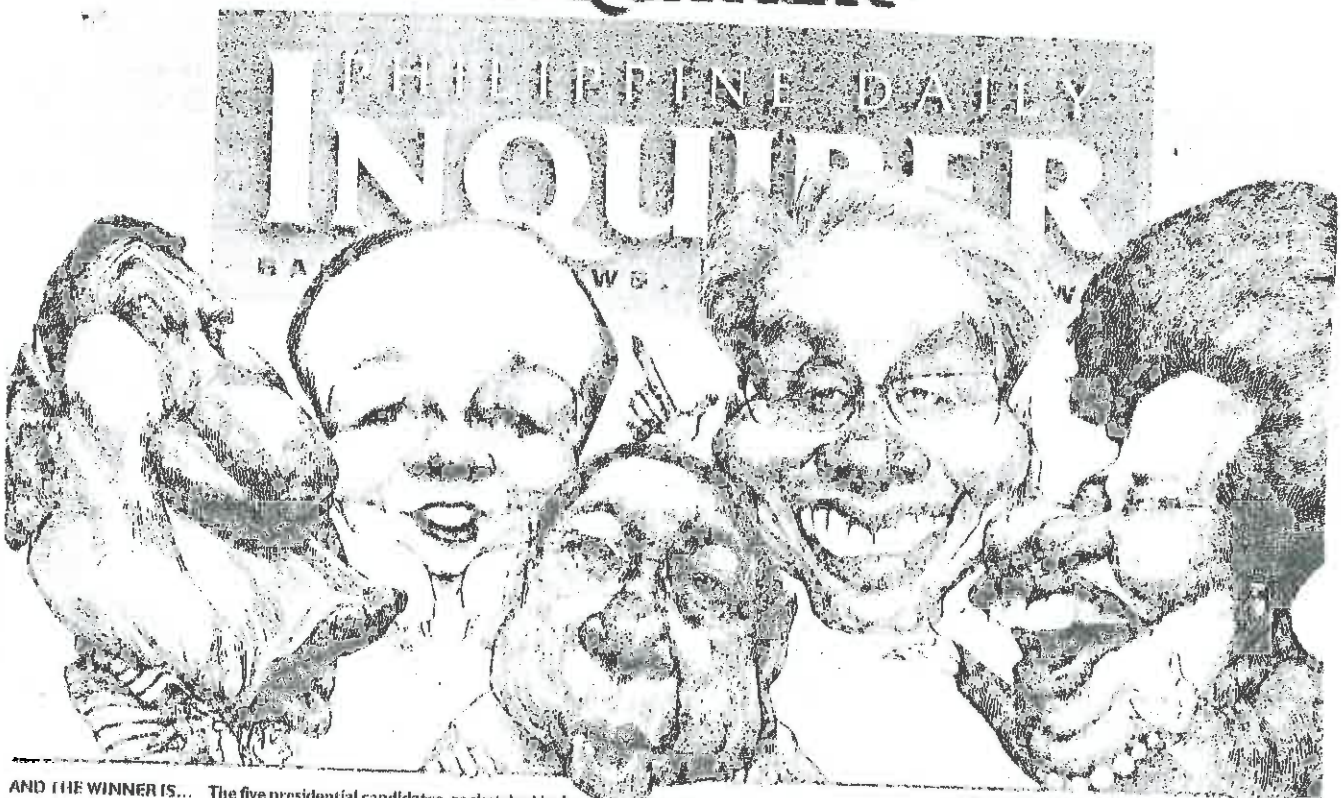

AND THE WINNER IS... The five presidential candidates, as sketched by Inquirer editorial cartoonist Gilbert Darroy: Rodrigo Duterte, Grace Poe, Jejomar Binay, Mar Roxas and Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Duterte man to beat

'Forget rights; I'll butcher criminals'

By Niña P. Calleja

THE RACE for Malacañang ends in national balloting today with mass murder advocate Rodrigo Duterte the man four other candidates need to beat to become the next President of the Philippines.

Duterte's promises of aggressive, even deadly, measures to wipe out crime have alarmed rivals, who warned at their final campaign rallies on Saturday night of danger should the Davao City mayor clinch the presidency.

Outgoing President Aquino, making a final pitch for straggling administration standard-bearer Mar Roxas, warned that voting for Duterte carried dangers similar to Hitler and would bring terror to the nation.

"I hope we learn the lessons of history. We should remember how Hitler came to power," Mr. Aquino said at the final rally for Roxas at Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

"If you allow them to oppress

DUTERTE / A8

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your fellowman and you do not speak up, you will be the next to be oppressed," Mr. Aquino said.

Duterte, the front-runner in all the voter preference polls for the presidential election, has hypnotized millions of voters with his promises to eradicate crime and corruption.

Mass killings

At his final rally in Rizal Park in Manila on Saturday night, the trash-talking mayor of Davao City repeatedly warned more than 300,000 supporters that there would be mass killings under his presidency.

In his 90-minute, well-applauded speech, the last of his campaign, Duterte vowed to forget human rights if he won the election and "butcher" criminals.

"Forget the laws on human rights," Duterte said, as he boasted of killing criminals during his more than two decades as mayor of Davao.

"If I make it to Malacañang, I will do just what I did as mayor. You drug pushers, holdup men and do-nothings, you better get out because I'll kill you," he said.

Duterte said he was prepared to butcher a criminal even in front of human rights campaigners or other critics.

"I will butcher him in front of them if they want," he said.

"Duterte! Duterte!" the crowd chanted every time the brash mayor used the word "kill."

Duterte, 71, has made his threats to kill criminals outside the justice system the centerpiece of his campaign strategy, outraging critics but winning the hearts of millions in an electorate who are fed up with rampant lawlessness and official corruption.

Foul mouth

He has used foul language, including calling the Pope a "son of a bitch," to cast himself as an antiestablishment politician, capturing the admiration of millions who have brought him from the political backwaters of poverty-ridden Mindanao to the forefront of national elections dominated by the elite.

His rivals and critics have been alarmed by his campaign promises of ending crime within six months of his presidency by ordering the military and the police to kill tens of thousands of suspected criminals, then pardon himself if he is found guilty of mass murder.

Duterte has been accused of running death squads in Davao that have killed more than 1,000 suspected criminals. At times he has boasted about his involvement but on other occasions denied any links to the vigilantes.

Not a communist

He has also warned that as President he will shut down Congress and establish a revolutionary government if lawmakers do not endorse his policies or move for his impeachment.

But at his final rally on Satur-

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day night, Duterte said he would not declare martial law except if the people rose against him.

"I won't declare martial law. But if you mutiny, I will do it. I have to protect the government," he said.

He promised to replicate throughout the Philippines his achievements in Davao City, bringing not only peace and order but also food on every table by making basic goods always "available and affordable."

Duterte said he would be the country's first "left-leaning President," but denied he was a communist, though he was a student of Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Maria Sison.

"I am not a communist. But I am a socialist. I belong to the left of center," he said.

Controversies

Duterte has most recently caused disgust in international diplomatic circles with a joke that he wanted to have been the first to rape a beautiful Australian missionary who was gang-raped and murdered in a prison riot in Davao in 1989.

Called out by the Australian and American ambassadors on the joke, Duterte told them to "shut up" and dared them to sever ties with the Philippines.

As the campaign went into its last two weeks, Duterte was accused of concealing millions of pesos in undisclosed bank accounts and charging for 11,000 nonexistent employees in the Davao municipal government.

No dent on popularity

The accusations, however, failed to dent his popularity and the campaign ended on Saturday with the thuggish political outsider keeping a huge lead in the polls.

A last-minute attempt by President Aquino to unify the other presidential candidates to prevent the election of Duterte failed as soon as it became known on Friday, with the mayor's other rivals refusing to give way to Roxas, who failed to gain traction with the voters during the three-month campaign.

Challenger

Duterte's closest rival, Sen. Grace Poe, the adopted daughter of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., is seen as the most likely to challenge him in today's ballot.

The principal target of Mr. Aquino's call for an alliance against Duterte, Poe refused to withdraw from the race, calling such as a decision a "subversion of the people's will."

Poe's propoor platform has resonated among Filipinos, as her life story: abandoned in a church shortly after birth and adopted by movie stars.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, the early favorite, has fallen to fourth place under the weight of a barrage of corruption allegations.

Sen Miriam Defensor Santiago, battling lung cancer, finished the race but never got past the last spot. ***With reports from Reuters and AFP***

09 May 2016

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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It's judgment day

Comelec dismisses poll manipulation fears

By DELON PORCALLA

After one of the most acrimonious campaigns ever and surprise surges in surveys by latecomers in the race, Filipinos pick a new set of leaders today who will shape the nation's fate in the next six years.

As election violence continued and fears persisted that the polls would be rigged, Malacañang and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) assured the nation that the government is fully prepared to conduct an orderly and credible vote.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said yesterday that authorities have addressed security issues, the reliability of power supply and availability of public school teachers for poll duties.

Coloma called on the Filipinos' civic spirit of "bayanihan" to help ensure the integrity of the elections, stressing that this was the responsibility not only of the Comelec and the government but of all citizens: *"Napakahalaga ang pag-iral ng diwa ng bayanihan at ang sama-samang pagpasan ng responsibilidad sa ating mga balikat bilang mga mamamayan hinggil sa pagtiyak sa integridad ng ating pambansang halalan."*

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said the poll body expects a voter turnout of 75 to 80 percent from the time the precincts open at 6 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. in 36,788 schools converted into voting centers nationwide.

This year's general elections have 54,363,844 qualified voters.

Both the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police

Turn to Page 8

It's judgment

From Page 1

are ready to help the Comelec ensure a peaceful, orderly and honest election, Coloma said.

The Department of Education has assigned nearly 500,000 teachers to comprise the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) in all 92,509 clustered polling precincts in 81 provinces of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Coloma added that the Department of Energy has talked with its power providers to ensure a steady supply of electricity today.

The Palace spokesman said there have been communications with "citizen's watchdog groups" or those who render volunteer assistance to the poll body in making sure that it will do its job properly by counting accurately the votes and rejecting cheating.

Coloma said security forces will use "augmentation forces from their own operating units" to provide protection to public school teachers comprising the BEIs.

Joint security assistance desks will also be set up in all polling precincts nationwide, aside from beefing up security in election hotspots or areas that have high probabilities of experiencing election-related violence.

The police have so far confiscated 3,500 guns for the duration of the gun ban.

Jimenez said the Comelec has sent about 5,000 vote counting machine (VCM) replacement units to seven regional hubs, in case some of the assigned units fail to work and need immediate replacement. The hubs are located in La Union, Laguna, Albay, Cebu, Zamboanga del Sur, Misamis Oriental and South Cotabato.

Jimenez said 44,871 candidates, including five presidential aspirants, are vying for 18,083 national and local positions.

He urged netizens to first verify the videos, news items or other election-related posts before sharing it in social networking sites, referring to insinuations posted over the Internet that the election results will be manipulated to favor some candidates.

The public, he said, is assured that the Comelec website is secure.

Jimenez said a voter would be allowed one replacement ballot if a VCM rejects the filled ballot and the rejection is not because of the voter's fault.

He also advised voters to reject marked ballots and to refrain from wearing campaign shirts. – **With Mayen Jaymalin**

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

GEN. ARTEMIO RICARTE

The Consistent Patriot

Text and photos by **FEDERICO CRUZ**

In the highland town of Hungduan, Ifugao province, 484 kilometers from Manila, is the gravesite of a little-known hero of the Katipunan – Gen. Artemio Ricarte, the first commanding general of the Philippine Army. On the crisp morning of April 29, Brig. Gen. Ramon Yogyog and a group of media men made the 12-hour trip to visit the gravesite to raise awareness on Ricarte's place in Philippine history.

The trip was part of the AFP's month-long commemoration of the surrender of the joint Filipino and American forces in Bataan on April 9, 1942 and Corregidor on May 8, 1942. To give depth to the story, the AFP took members of the media to the opposite bookend of the war, to where the enemy surrendered among the misty peaks of the Cordilleras, three years later.

After the wreath-laying ceremony, Brig. Gen. Yogyog spoke on the significant role of Gen. Ricarte, who he dubbed Ricarte as "The Consistent Patriot." Yogyog cited Ricarte's consistent refusal to swear allegiance to the United States when the Americans annexed the Philippines, after the revolution against Spain.

His refusal extended until the end of the Second World War, as he succumbed to dysentery while he was with the remnants of Gen. Yamashita's retreating Imperial Army.

According to Teodoro A. Agoncillo's "A History of the Filipino People," Ricarte joined the Katipunan soon after it was founded at the end August, 1896. His nickname was "Vibora" or "Viper." After leading a successful campaign against a Spanish garrison in San Franciso Malabon, Cavite, (now called Gen. Trias) he rose quickly through the ranks, becoming the first commanding general of the Philippine Army at the Tejeros Convention on March 22, 1897.

After the revolution, BGen. Yogyog said Ricarte felt slighted by the Americans, who instead of giving the reigns over to the Filipinos they helped to overthrow the Spanish, annexed the country instead. This betrayal prompted Ricarte to take action against them.

Again according to Agoncillo, in July,1900, he snuck on the American troop line into Manila (which was closed off by the Americans) earning him six months in Bilibid Prisons. At the end of his sentence, he was made to swear allegiance to the United States, which he promptly refused. A pattern of subversion, incarceration and refusal to swear allegiance ensued, resulting to his exile to Guam, Hong Kong, and finally to Yokohama, Japan in 1916. There, he spent the next 26 years.

In 1942, another war gave him a chance to return to the Philippines. A year into the Japanese occupation, Gen. Ricarte returned to his country of birth at the behest of Prime Minister Hideki Tojo, to help in the pacification campaign of the occupied islands, with the promise

of eventual independence.

In 1945, as joint Filipino and American forces began to wrest back control of the country, he was with the Japanese forces who fled Manila for the Cordilleras, where he passed away just days before Gen. Yamashita's surrender to the USAFFE on Sept. 2, 1945.

Gen. Ricarte is a largely forgotten figure in Philippine history. He is seen as either a wartime collaborator or a revolutionary hero, but never both. His actions in the revolution and the Second World War seemingly negate each other, which may explain his relative obscurity. Without a clear cut legacy, it's difficult to make sense of the man, making him difficult to remember.

Brig. Gen. Yogyog offers a different perspective. Throughout his stories, he reiterated the steadfastness of Gen. Ricarte's conviction to what he believed in –a truly independent Philippines. As BGen. Yogyog explained, it guided him every time he refused to swear the oath of allegiance to the United States, in the face of incarceration and exile, and it guided him to trust that the Japanese, as co-Asians will make good on their promise of independence.

09 May 2016 STAR Page: A-23

Military: NPA targeted cash in ambush of pol's convoy

By RAYMUND CATINDIG

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Cash and goods were reportedly the real target of the New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas when they ambushed a convoy of a candidate for mayor in Jones, Isabela on Saturday, the Philippine Army said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Lysander Suerte of the Army's 5th Division said the victims, led by village chief Rhoda Anunciacion of Barangay Uno, were carrying cash when the rebels waylaid them in Barangay Namnama at around 8:30 a.m.

He said the group was reportedly on their way to distribute financial assistance to villagers affected by El Niño.

The village official, her 12-year-old son and two others were wounded, while her policeman-husband and two others were killed in the attack.

Anunciacion is a sister of Vice Mayor Melanie Uy, who is opposing the reelection bid of Mayor Leticia Sebastian.

Initial report said the vice mayor was with the victims during the attack.

The Army said one of the rebels was killed in a pursuit operation launched by the 86th Infantry Battalion, while another was arrested at a checkpoint in a nearby village.

Isabela Police director Senior Superintendent Leon Rafael clarified reports that the four men held in Barangay Diarao were companions of the victims.

The four reportedly went to the scene of the ambush to retrieve the bodies of the victims.

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09 May 2016

NGAYON

Pahina. 7

Sundalo na convoy ng Comelec utas sa NPA

Napatay ang isang sundalo ng Phil. Army habang isang sundalo at tatlong sibilyan naman ang sugatan makaraang tambangan ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army ang convoy na magdadala ng voting counting machines (VCM) sa bayan ng Gamay sa Northern Samar noong Sabado ng hapon.

Kinilala ang napatay na sundalo na si PFC. Louiden Quebec ng 20th Infantry Battalion na nakabase sa bayan ng Catubig habang sugatan naman si Private Michael Cagata at ang tatlong sibilyan ay ginagamot sa rural health center sa bayan ng Mapanas.

Base sa ulat, sakay ng military truck ang tropa ng 20th Infantry Battalion ng Phil. Army nang masabugan ng landmine na itinanim ng mga rebeldeng NPA sa bahagi ng highway sa Barangay Anito.

Ayon sa ulat, nasa convoy ang mga sundalo na nagdeliver ng VCM sa bayan ng Mapanas nang tambangan ng mga rebelde habang pabalik sa kanilang kampo.

Wala namang natangay na VCM matapos ma-secure ng mga awtoridad ang forwarder truck. ***Ricky Tulipat***

09 May 2016

Reds attack military convoy, 1 killed, 4 wounded

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA

A SOLDIER was killed while four others, including three civilians, were wounded when suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) attacked a military convoy the other day in Northern Samar.

Police Regional Office 8 director Chief Supt. Jose Erwin Villacorte identified the slain soldier only as "Private Quebec" and wounded colleague as "Private Cagata."

The three wounded civilians were taken to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Reports said the incident occurred on Cory Aquino Highway at Bgy. Anito Mapanas, Northern Samar.

Reports from the National Election Monitoring Action Center (NEMAC) said elements of the Army's 20th Infantry Battalion were in a military truck when they hit a landmine planted by the rebels.

The troops were reportedly escorting a forwarder truck delivering vote counting machines (VCMs) in Gamay town when the incident happened.

The troops managed to return fire, triggering a firefight that lasted for at least 30 minutes.

The firefight left a soldier dead and four others wounded.

The VCMs were reportedly intact as the troops managed to secure them.

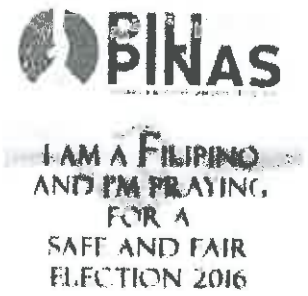
Meanwhile, on the same day, the rebels also attacked a group of soldiers trying to rescue their comrades that also resulted in a brief exchange of fire. No one was reported injured.

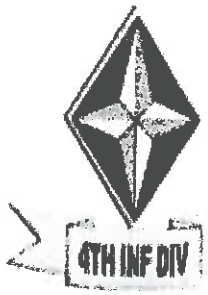
Villacorte said the act of the rebels is a clear indication that they are indeed planning to sabotage the elections.

http://dwdd.com.ph/

BANTAY HALALAN 2016 | 4ID Ready for a Safe and Secure Presidential Election

Alvin Santiago





CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan de Oro City (DWDD) – The 4th Infantry "Diamond" Division has prepared its troops for deployment for a safe and secure upcoming May 9 Presidential election yesterday May 5, 2016.

Days before the election, the Division has established its Election Monitoring Center (EMAC) inside the camp to ensure the monitoring of election-related activities and security efforts within the Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Furthermore, the Division has deployed troops in the different provinces of Regions 10 & 13 to support the PNP counterparts primarily to man the joint PNP-COMELEC-AFP Election Monitoring and Action Centers and deployment of AFP/PNP to secure the communities. Aside from that, 4ID created Quick Reaction Teams stationed inside the camp if the need arises.

MGen Benjamin R Madrigal Jr AFP, Commander 4ID said, "Your Philippine Army is ready for a safe and secure Presidential election. The troops deployed in the different areas of 4ID is committed to serve the people of Mindanao to have a peaceful and fair election."

http://www.inquirer.net/

Soldier on Comelec duty killed by NPA rebels

By: Joey A. Gabieta

New People's Army. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines — A soldier was killed while another was wounded on Saturday afternoon in an ambush by communist rebels in Gamay town, Northern Samar, after delivering vote counting machines (VCM) in another town.

Killed was Private First Class Louiden Quebec of the 20th Infantry Battalion based in Catubig town, Northern Samar.

Private Michael Cagata was wounded and was rushed to the rural health center in Mapanas.
Captain Ian Andres Fabellon, chief of the public affairs office of the 8th Infantry Division, saidthat no VCMs were taken by the New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

He said the soldiers were assigned to secure the VCMs that were delivered to Mapanas town in time for the May 9 polls.

After delivering the VCMs, they were heading back to their base in Catubig past 3 p.m. on Saturday when their vehicle hit a land mine planted by NPA rebels in Sitio Mamhot, Barangay Manaybanay, Gamay town, according to a report received by the Police Regional Office in Eastern Visayas (PRO-8).

After the land mine exploded, at least 30 rebels fired at the soldiers. An exchange of gunfire ensued, the report said.

The rebels retreated to the mountains.

Responding policemen from the Mapanas police station recovered one plastic container, four white gallons covered with black cloth and around 100 meters of black electrical wire. ***/rga***

www.interaksyon.com/national

Soldier killed, 4 people wounded in NPA Samar attack on escorts for VCM delivery courier

By: Eladio Perfecto and Ricky Bautista, InterAksyon.com
May 8, 2016 3:58 PM

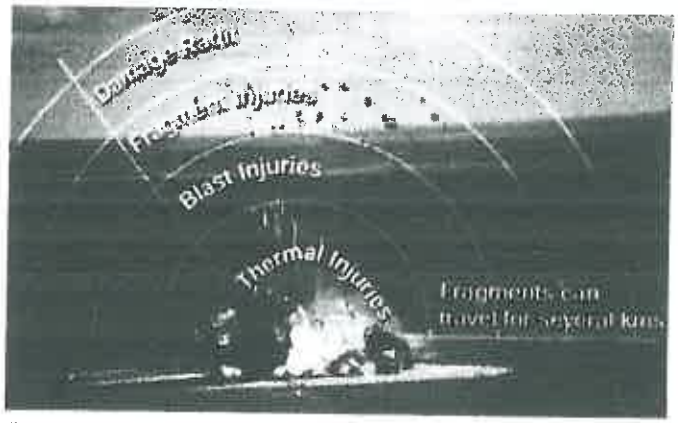


Illustration by the Philippine Army shows the impact of an NPA landmine. The military denounced the rebels for planting landmines on the route of an Army-PNP convoy that escorted a courier's vehicle carrying vote counting machines in Northern Samar. Three civilians were hit by the IED, which exploded as soldiers traded fire with some 30 rebels.

CATARMAN, Northern Samar, Philippines - One soldier was killed and another one wounded in an ambush Saturday afternoon by suspected members of the New People's Army of an Army convoy on its way back to barracks after escorting a private courier's vehicle that delivered Vote Counting Machines (VCM) to be used for Monday's elections.

Three civilians were hit and wounded after an improvised explosive device (IEDs) exploded at So. Mamhot, Barangay Manaybanay, Mapanas near the boundary of Mapanas and Gamay towns.

Capt. Bard Caesar Mazo, Civil Military Operations officer of the 803rd infantry division, Philippine Army based in Camp Sumoroy, Catarman, Northern Samar, said the military truck and PNP patrol car were traveling back to the headquarters of the Army's 20th IB based in Gamay town from Mapanas after escorting a vehicle that delivered VCMs, when they came under attack from rebels.

The firefight lasted more than 30 minutes.

In the course of the attack, an IED exploded, hitting three civilians who were riding a motorcycle, but only two were identified: Marlon Balitos and Bryan Obrar. The three were brought to Gamay District Hospital.

Mazo said the NPA planted five IEDs along the Palapag-Mapanas-Gamay-Lapinig road with approximately 50-meter intervals.

Lt Col Hilarion Palma, battalion commander of the 20th IB, denounced what he called an apparent campaign by the rebels to sow terror to disrupt the May 9 elections.

Col. Mario Lacurom, 803rd brigade commander, said the use of IEDs, inflicting harm on civilians, is a clear violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law where the NPA-CPP is a signatory.

Lacurom said the NPA also violated the United Nations Convention against the use of Landmines.

Eastern Visayas police director Chief Superintendent Jose Erwin Villacorte said troops from the 20th Infantry Battalion and personnel of the Mapanas police station were partly hit by the landmines planted on the right shoulder of the highway.

The landmine explosion was immediately followed by the gunfire from some 30 NPA members, which resulted in the death of one soldier identified as Private Louieden Quebec, 20, and a resident of Barangay Lokilokon, Paranas, Samar.

Also wounded during the attack was Private First Class Michael P. Cagata, 27, a resident of Lucena City.

Insp. Lope Cebreros III, the town police chief, said the VCMs are secure. "The rebels withdrew carrying undetermined casualties," Cebreros said.

Second ambush

At about 4:25 p.m., reinforcements from the 20th IB led by First Lieutenant Alge Oronon, who is on mission to extract the dead and wounded soldiers, were also ambushed by the NPA blocking force in the vicinity of Barangay Maragano, in Palapag town.

The second ambush resulted in another firefight - lasting about three minutes, with no casualties - between the army and the rebels.

Recovered from the first ambush site was a plastic container, four white gallons covered by a black cloth, a hundred meter blasting wires and a banner with markings "Justice for Emil Go."

Police said Go is a Makabayan activist and SB secretary of Palapag town slain by gunmen last April 29 in front of his residence in Palapag.

Fr. Santiago Salas, spokesman of the National Democratic Front in Eastern Visayas, condemned the killing of Go and tagged the military and an influential political dynasty in Northern Samar as behind the killing.

http://www.philstar.com/

Girl killed, 4 hurt in grenade attacks in Maguindanao town

By John Unson/ May 8, 2016 - 3:30pm

Police believe the grenade attacks were done by partisans, but did not elaborate. Google Earth

MAGUINDANAO, Philippines - An elementary school girl was killed and four others were hurt when suspected partisans fired 40-millimeter grenades on a village in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao late Saturday.

The fatality, nine-year-old Saudia Mandia Zaman, died from shrapnel wounds sustained in one of two explosions that rocked a farming village south of the municipality, just after rival political camps wrapped up separate final campaigns sorties in the area.

Zaman's two siblings and their parents, Wahid and Bainanot, were badly hurt in the bombing.

Investigators from the Shariff Aguak municipal police said there were indications that partisans were behind the attack, but declined to elaborate.

Two scions of the Ampatuan clan -- incumbent mayor Maroup and challenger Sajid -- are vying for the mayoral seat of Shariff Aguak.

Sajid is the youngest son of former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, Sr.

Captain Joann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said soldiers have been deployed in strategic areas in Shariff Aguak to help ensure peaceful conduct in the area of before, during and after the elections.

Local officials said the two grenades, fired from a distance using launchers, exploded within five hours of each other.

The town center of Shariff Aguak is surrounded by enclaves of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. There are also private armed groups existing in the municipality.

http://www.inquirer.net/

Girl killed in grenade blast near Ampatuan house in Maguindanao

By: Edwin Fernandez/02:20 PM May 8th, 2016

A soldier prepares to fire an M-203 grenade launcher in this photo from a US Army Facebook post. Police said attackers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, fired grenades from a similar weapon.

COTABATO CITY, Philippines – A nine-year old girl was killed while her parents and siblings were hurt in one of the two grenade attacks Saturday night in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao.

Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, speaking for the 6th Infantry Division, said the explosions occurred in one of the towns considered by the Commission on Elections as possible "area of concern" in Monday's polls.

Citing the report from the Army stationed in Shariff Aguak, Petinglay identified the fatality as Puti Mandigan who died on the spot. Injured were her father Wahid, 38, mother Bae, 37, a brother, Arabai, 7, and an unidentified sibling.

Petinglay said police and military investigators could not ascertain if the twin blasts were related to the miting de avance of local candidates in Shariff Aguak.

The first blast occurred at about 7:30 p.m. in a vacant lot not far from the mansion of former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor Zaldy Ampatuan. A political event was happening about 500 meters away at the town market.

The second explosion came shortly after midnight when residents were asleep and political rallies were over.

Petinglay said the victims were asleep inside their house a few meters from the Ampatuan home when the explosion occurred.

Neighbors rushed the victims to the Maguindanao provincial hospital.

Police investigators found shrapnel for M-203 and M-79 grenades.

"We are helping the local police investigate. We cannot say at this time if it was election-related," Petinglay told the Inquirer.

Lawless elements, outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and private armed groups operate in the area.

Sajid Ampatuan, a son of former-Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., is running for mayor of Shariff Aguak against another relative.

Sajid is out on bail for his alleged role in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre./***rga***

http://dwdd.com.ph/

BANTAY HALALAN 2016 | NPA Ambushes Mayoralty Candidate Supporters in Isabela

Alvin Santiago

GAMU, Isabela (DWDD) – A hot pursuit operations conducted by 86IB resulted to the arrest of a suspected member of the NPA at Brgy. Namnama, Jones, Isabela on May 7, 2016.

Earlier on same day, 86IB hotline received a cell phone call from Brgy Captain Rhoda Anunciacion of Brgy I, Jones that their group was harassed by unidentified armed rebels at BrgyNamnama, Jones, Isabela. Accordingly, NPA rebels fired assault rifles on their convoy of vehicles leaving 3 people dead and 4 others wounded. Immediately, soldiers of 86IB responded and conducted hot pursuit operations. Vigilant residents in the said place of incident cooperated and revealed intelligence. The troops trace the NPA rebels and series of encounters transpired at Brgy Namnama and Brgy San Sebastian.

Aside from the captured suspected member of NPA, several items were also recovered and were accounted as follows: Cellphone Cherry Mobile; External Hard Drive Samsung (250 G) and cable memory; One (1) USB (Philip); Two (2) Sim card (Smart and Talk and Text); Memory Card SanDisk; One (1) Icom (Baofeng); Two (2) Hammock Camouflag; Two (2) Poncho (Black); Four (4) pcs improvise Clamor mine; One (1) Magazine for M14; One (1) Trigger; Mechanism for M14; One (1) Charger Hand Held; Three (3) Batteries; Cable antenna

Meanwhile, Major General Lysander Suerte, the Commander of 5th Infantry Division commended the troops and instructed them to continue protecting the people and ensure a peaceful elections in Jones. **5DPAO / MCAG**

09 May 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
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tent Patriot

SALUTE TO RICARTE — Soldiers salute the stone marker in Hungduan, Ifugao, dedicated to Gen. Artemio Ricarte, the first commanding general of the Philippine Army, last April 29 in celebration of his patriotism. (Federico Cruz)

09 May 2016

THE STAR

Page: 1

No security threats, says AFP

Despite sporadic cases of election violence, the military said it had not detected any "significant" security threat that could mar the elections.

However, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs chief Col. Noel Detoyato yesterday said the public must be vigilant to prevent violence and other untoward incidents.

"We appeal to the public to remain alert and vigilant so that we can all work together to ensure the sanctity of the ballot in all areas on election day and after," he said.

Turn to Page 8

No security

From Page 1

Detoyato said security forces have been deployed nationwide to ensure peaceful, orderly and credible polls.

All the 125,000 members of the AFP are on red alert, on call around the clock in case of an emergency.

Last week, the military launched the National Election Monitoring Center to consolidate and coordinate information needed to ensure safe and fair polls.

The center will use the military's information-related capabilities to monitor poll preparations, the actual conduct of elections and the canvassing process. It will also monitor election-related violence especially in identified election watch areas.

In Maguindanao Saturday night, one civilian was killed and four civilians were wounded in three separate explosions.

Detoyato said the incident occurred at around 11:30 p.m. or 30 minutes before the end of the campaign period.

The explosions occurred in an area about a kilometer from the headquarters of the 45th Infantry Battalion in Shariff Aguak town. They were believed to have been fired from M203 or M79 grenade launchers.

Detoyato said troops have intensified operations to arrest the perpetrators.

"The casualties were brought to the Maguindanao Provincial Hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, six people, including two policemen, were arrested Saturday night in connection with a shooting incident in Gattaran, Cagayan.

Detoyato said the shooting incident happened in Barangay Naduran near the house of Roevahn Elizaga, a candidate for councilor.

Policemen held two civilian vehicles and arrested six people. They also recovered three M16 rifles, five cal .45, two cal .38 and one 9mm pistol.

Security forces on alert

Tens of thousands of security forces fanned out across the country yesterday on the eve of national polls, following a bitter and deadly election campaign plagued by rampant vote-buying and intimidation.

Elections are a traditionally volatile time in the country, infamous for lax gun laws and a violent political culture.

– Alexis Romero, AFP

09 May 2016 Tempo Page. 4

PNP, AFP ready for polls

By ELENA L. ABEN

The military and the police said it's all systems go for today's conduct of the national and local elections, with enough number of government security forces deployed to ensure security and order as the people exercise their right to suffrage.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has deployed sufficient forces to ensure the public that the today's elections will be peaceful safe and secure, said PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez.

"The PNP, together with other agencies are ready to secure all vital installations and economic key points and other places of convergence," he stressed, even as he called on candidates and their supporters to remain calm and respectful of the rule of law and not to resort to any uncalled for actions.

"While the law respects the Constitutional right of individuals to suffrage, we encourage every supporters them to perform their acts peacefully and within the bounds of law as it is also the duty of the PNP to protect the rights of other people which may be violated by their actions," he said.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, on the other hand, said they have yet to monitor any significant threat that could affect the holding of the elections.

"So far there are no significant threats that have been monitored that should be a cause for worry. We are confident that our forces along with those of the PNP are all adequately distributed and now emplaced to help ensure the successful, safe, secure, peaceful, orderly, and credible conduct of (the) elections," he said.

Padilla, nonetheless, appealed to the public to remain alert and vigilant "so that we can all work together to ensure the sanctity of the ballots in all areas come election day and after."

The PNP made the same call, as it also urged the public to be vigilant at all times to prevent unscrupulous individuals and lawless elements from taking advantage of them and from using them for their sinister motives.

Both the PNP and the AFP emphasized that all efforts are being done in order to uphold the security and integrity of the 2016 synchronized elections and effectively counter possible election mischief, as well as, to sustain peace and order in the country.

The military and the police have been placed on full alert, while Comelec-AFP-PNP checkpoints will be continuously conducted all throughout the country to effectively implement firearms ban during the election period.

Meanwhile, Marquez appealed to the public to strictly follow the two-day Comelec liquor ban which took effect Sunday.

As of 10:45 a.m. yesterday, 12 persons have been arrested in regions 1, 9, and 10 for violation of the ban on liquor, police records show.

"Violation of said prohibited acts shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years and shall not be subject to probation, and in addition, the guilty party shall suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage," the PNP chief warned.

On the various "miting de avance" staged by presidential and candidates Saturday night, the PNP said everything was generally peaceful, except with the traffic snarls that were created.

Marquez further reiterated that the PNP "remain non-partisan and apolitical, and must never allow ourselves to be used for anyone's political ends."

"The PNP assures the public that it is doing its best efforts in order to uphold the security and integrity of the National and Local Elections 2016 and effectively counter possible election mischief as well as to sustain peace and order in the country," he added.

09 April 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Security beefed up in provinces for polls

Abra, Isabela town under Comelec control amid election violence

By the Inquirer Bureaus

POLICE have placed several areas around the country under close monitoring as politically motivated attacks claimed the lives of two candidates for mayor in Isabela and Bukidnon provinces and incidents of violence among rival groups were reported just days before today's national elections.

Election officials focused their attention on the gun attack on a Liberal Party (LP) campaign group in Jones, Isabela, where three people were killed, and on reports of vote-buying and guns being fired in Abra province.

Jones town and Abra are under the control of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The police went after 15 armed men who killed on Saturday three supporters of LP mayoral candidate Melanie Uy. Two other supporters were wounded.

The victims were on their way to a campaign sortie in Namnama village in Jones at 8 a.m. when they were waylaid.

On April 13, communist rebels had claimed responsibility for killing Jones Vice Mayor Ronaldo Lucas, shortly after they detained his supporters who were campaigning in the town's interior villages.

Lucas was serving the remaining term of Vice Mayor Florante Raspado, who was murdered inside the town hall in April last year.

On April 14, gunmen shot alist People's Coalition (NPC) candidate for town councilor.

Uy intended to run for vice mayor with Raspado but she chose to run for mayor with Raspado's widow, Evelyn, as her running mate.

Tight security

In Abra, the Comelec received reports of vote-buying and supporters of candidates scaring voters in remote towns.

Abra has become notorious for political killings in previous elections, many of them committed by private armies allegedly hired by political families there.

The police tightened security over Nueva Ecija, another election hot spot.

At 1 a.m. on Sunday in Talavera town, a grenade was lobbed at the house of former Vice Mayor Vince de Leon, damaging a vehicle.

Violent incidents, which authorities said could be election-related, were also reported in provinces in Mindanao amid tightened security.

In Tamparan, Lanao del Sur, at least two persons were killed while nine others were wound-

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FOR PEACEFUL POLLS Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas (second from left), president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, leads a group of church workers and parishioners in Dagupan City in prayers and a candle lighting ceremony for clean and peaceful elections.

WILLIE LOMIBAO / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

a convoy of suspected flying voters on Saturday.

Also on Saturday, unidentified men killed Armando Ceballos, an independent mayoral candidate in Lantapan town in Bukidnon province.

In Davao City, Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan, Southern Mindanao police director, announced the formation of a special investigation task force to handle the investigation of Tuesday's killing of Altavista village chair Edison Alisoso and the wounding of tribal chieftain Emelito Angga.

In Sta. Maria, Davao Occidental, Sangguniang Bayan candidate and Kisulad village chair Wifredo Albarracin Cernal said he and his family survived an ambush while they were on their way home from a rally on Saturday night.

Tension in Palawan

Four people have been killed and at least three others wounded in pockets of political violence in provinces in Southern Luzon just days before the national elections.

In Palawan province, two supporters of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Lucilo Bayron and former provincial information officer Gil Acosta were killed in separate clashes with supporters of their rivals.

Continuing tension in the mayoral and congressional races have prompted police to increase their presence in Puerto Princesa, Palawan's capital city.

A joint security task group convened by the 3rd Marine Brigade on Saturday placed Puerto Princesa City and the town of Bataraza on its watch list for potential violence in the run up to the elections.

In Batangas province, a reelectionist councilor in Tanauan City was killed while his security aide was wounded when they were shot by a lone gunman while they were meeting with leaders of a tricycle drivers' group on Friday night.

On Thursday night, a security aide of a candidate for vice mayor in Mataas na Kahoy town in Batangas was also killed. Later that night, police arrested 10 men in Barangay Santol in Mataas na Kahoy after police found guns in their possession.

In Quezon province, a policeman was wounded when he was hit by a stray bullet after supporters of a mayoral candidate in Mulanay town fired at a vehicle carrying supporters of another candidate on Saturday afternoon, police said.

In Camarines Sur province, police on Sunday seized at least 27 firearms in a raid on the house of a village chief in Iriga City.

Rebel attack

In the Visayas, a man was shot and killed in front of the house of Sta. Fe Mayor Jose Esgana in Barangay Talisay on Bantayan Island on Saturday night.The police, however, had yet to determine if the killing of Gilbert Garcia Delima, whose body was dragged into the mayor's compound, was election-related.

Security personnel were in full alert in Eastern Visayas amid an ambush staged by communist rebels in Northern Samar that killed a soldier on Saturday.

A group of soldiers was heading back to an Army base in Catubig town, Northern Samar after delivering vote counting machines to Mapanas town when they were ambushed in Gamay town.

The Eastern Visayas regional police sent an additional 121 personnel to the provinces of Leyte, Samar and Northern Samar which are considered "flash points" during elections.

Ready for polls

More than 7,500 soldiers and government militiamen were sent by the military to the three regions of Southern Luzon to help the police ensure orderly elections today.

In Datu Odin Sinsuat in Maguindanao, the 6th Infantry Division, which has jurisdiction over several Central Mindanao areas and Maguindanao, said it has formed an elite rapid deployment team to respond to incidents of violence, said Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, the unit's spokesperson.

Reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Kimberlie Quitasol, Melvin Gascon, Vincent Cobreza, Armand Galang, Redempto Anda, Mar Arguelles, Kimmy Baraoidan, Shiena Barrameda, Maricar Cinco, Juan Escandor Jr., Mayda Lagran, Jofel Joyce Lancion, Delfin Mallari Jr., Marrah Erika Rabe, Nestor Burgos Jr., Joey Gabieta, Jhunnex Napallacan, Jose Santino Bunachita, Jennifer Allegado, Jeoffrey Maitem, Richel Umel, Williamor Magbanua, Jigger Jerusalem, Julie Alipala, Judy Quiros and Frinston Lim

09 May 2016

THE DAILY STAR

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50 dead in poll-related violence since Jan. 10

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

At least 50 people, or an average of nearly one person every two days, were killed during the 119-day election period since Jan. 10, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported yesterday.

The PNP released the data on election-related violence on the eve of election day.

PNP spokesman Chief Superintendent Wilben Mayor said that from Jan. 10 to May 8, the police recorded 146 "election incident concerns" in 18 regions nationwide.

"Out of 146 cases, 28 were

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50 dead

From Page 1

validated to be election related. Out of this 28, 50 were killed, nine injured, and 43 unharmed, for a total of 67 victims," Mayor said.

Out of 146 incidents, 60 cases were not election related, and 58 are suspected to be in relation to the run up to the elections, Mayor said.

Central Luzon topped the region having "validated" election-related incidents with five cases, followed by Cagayan Valley, Southern Tagalog, Central Visayas with four cases each, three in the Ilocos region, two cases each in Metro Manila and Northern Mindanao, and one each in Western Mindanao, Bicol region, Cordillera and Central Mindanao.

On Saturday, the last day of the campaign, four people were killed in separate attacks against two mayoral candidates in Isabela and Bukidnon provinces, reports said.

Authorities are also investigating the killing of a nine-year-old girl in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao.

Four people were also injured in the grenade attack just after rival political camps wrapped up their campaign.

Also on Saturday, a soldier was killed while six others were wounded in an attack by the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Mapanas town in Northern Samar.

Troops from the Army's 20th Infantry Battalion were escorting officials transporting the vote counting machines (VCMs) to be used for today's elections when they were ambushed by the NPA along the Corazon Aquino highway in Barangay Manaybanay.

Two known supporters of a mayoral candidate in Balasan, Iloilo were shot dead yesterday.

Reports said the local police are still investigating if the killings are election related.

On the other hand, a policeman was injured when he tried to pacify supporters of rival mayoralty candidates in Mulanay, Quezon yesterday.

Mayor said last Saturday's *mitings de avance* of the five presidential candidates held in various areas in Metro Manila were generally peaceful.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Sen. Grace Poe held their separate *mitings de avance* in Manila.

Administration candidate Manuel Roxas and Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago led their last campaign rally in separate places in Quezon City while Vice President Jejomar Binay gathered his supporters in a final pitch in Makati City.

Mayor said the five presidential candidates have been provided police security.

He added the PNP would also deploy additional policemen to polling precincts where the five presidential candidates are expected cast their ballots.

"But as of now we cannot really afford to provide additional, but we will rely on the security of the polling place at the same time their individual security which was already provided previously," Mayor explained.

However, if any or all five presidential candidates request for additional security, Mayor said the local police would provide support.

Mayor reiterated the commitment of PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez that the national police will do their best to have honest, orderly and peaceful elections today.

"Our job is to provide security, assure a safe and secure elections, so we must concentrate now on the security of the polling places, that is the primary task right now," he added.

Mayor added the PNP has completed its task in delivering the VCMs in some areas.

"Latest information from the national election monitoring action center said the latest delivery would be in Sulu this (yesterday) noon, This was based on the schedule given by the Comelec (Commission on Elections)," he said.

Mayor said the PNP has also augmented police forces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, in the Southern Tagalog region and Central Luzon.

"We have a total of 220 personnel that will form part of quick reaction force considering that based on the instruction of the Comelec, we have standby personnel to act as special board of election inspectors," Mayor said.

The Comelec has passed a resolution appointing PNP personnel to act as substitute for teachers who refuse to perform election duties.

Torched bus

In Baguio City, congressional candidate Camilo Lammawin Jr.'s mini-bus, used in his campaign sorties, was burned at dawn yesterday in Tabuk City, capital of Kalinga province.

The fire was put out at around 2:56 a.m.

Unnamed perpetrators set fire to the Hino mini bus of Dupag Barangay chairman Samuel Banasan Sunal-ay at Purok 3, Bulanao Norte, Tabuk City, according to Kalinga police.

"This is very violent," former Tabuk City mayor and now Kalinga provincial board member Lammawin said. "This is the very first time they did this in my political campaign."

Political foes "even hire armed men and tried to harass my supporters," Lammawin said.

He refused to name who among his political foes was behind the violence.

It is a three-cornered fight for the lone legislative district of Kalinga among Lammawin, Carlos Duyan and Vice Gov. Allen Jesse Mangaoan.

Only Abra in the Cordillera region has so far been declared under the control of the Comelec for today's polls. – **With Ed Amoroso, John Unson, Michelle Zoleta, Ricky Bautista, Raymund Catindig, Artemio Dumlao, Jennifer Rendon**

09 May 2016 STAR Page: 4

CPP denies endorsing Duterte's presidential bid

By ARTEMIO DUMLAO

BAGUIO CITY – Breaking its silence on the issue, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday said it is not endorsing Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's presidential bid.

Neither would it be "participating in the elections, more so in endorsing or supporting any of the presidential candidates," the CPP said.

A labor federation also expressed doubts on whether Duterte would fight labor contractualization, also known as end of contract or "endo."

Nagkaisa said only Vice President Jejomar Binay, Sen. Grace Poe, and administration standard-bearer Manuel Roxas II signed the covenant "calling for the repeal of the notorious and rampant contractual work scheme in the country."

Earlier this week, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago claimed that Duterte is the "official candidate" of the New People's Army (NPA).

But "contrary to Senator Santiago's claims, Mayor Duterte is not being endorsed nor supported by the Party or the NPA," said the CPP, the NPA's political arm.

Likewise, the CPP dismissed reports by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that NPA members in Samar are campaigning for Duterte. "These are pure lies."

The CPP observed that "Duterte has espoused certain advocacies that strike a chord among the Filipino people and their national democratic forces, including calling for peace negotiations to address the roots of the armed conflict."

However, the CPP added that "Duterte has mostly styled himself as an anti-crime crusader, a socialist and a radical in an effort to win over the people who long have been disillusioned with the rotten ruling system."

The party said he has also advocated such counter-progressive neoliberal economic policies as expanding the public-private partnership program, banning unions and strikes, providing big bourgeois *compradors* with state-guaranteed profits, liberalizing trade and giving even more incentives to foreign investors.

The CPP said it also notes with keen interest Duterte's promise to immediately declare a ceasefire to pave the way for peace negotiations if ever he wins. "Duterte's promise, indeed, strikes a chord with the Filipino people who have long aspired for substantial progress in the NDFP-GRP peace negotiations after more than 15 years of being stalled."

A Duterte presidency, the CPP said, "can push forward peace negotiations by upholding all previous agreements from the foundational The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 to the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) of 1998 and complying with the GRP obligations under the JASIG by ordering the release of all NDFP consultants and political detainees."

Before NPA guerrillas in Davao last week, Duterte reportedly declared he would be the first "Left president" of the Philippines.

But the CPP believes Duterte's rhetoric is done "in the hope of boosting his chances of gaining popular support," thus the "radical sound bites. Talk is cheap especially during the electoral campaign."

The CPP further explained that despite Duterte's "radicalism," he has yet to espouse "any fundamental shift from the general run of neoliberal economic policy of the past 30 or so years."

Rather, it added, "he has promised to expand privatization and deregulation and declared plans to provide state funds to Lucio Tan and his ilk of big bourgeois compradors; and liberalization of trade by allowing the dumping of surplus steel from China."

–With Jess Diaz

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Iloilo congressional candidate, cop clash

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — A candidate for a congressional seat in Iloilo province and a chief of police have clashed over checkpoint rules.

Atty. Wil Arceño, provincial supervisor of the Commission on Elections (Comelec-Iloilo), confirmed that Dr. Ferjenel "Ferj" Biron, a former congressman and currently running to regain his seat in Iloilo's Fourth District had a verbal clash with Police Inspector Charlie Sustento Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Dumangas town.

According to Arceño, Sustento alleged that Biron had harassed the police chief during a conduct of checkpoint last Friday, May 6, 2016.

Biron's vehicle allegedly stopped where Sustento was leading his men in conducting an election checkpoint. The police chief alleged that Biron spewed curses at him while the latter was surrounded by his bodyguards.

Arceño said that Biron's ally, Jasmin Ocampo, also allegedly questioned Sustento's authority to conduct a checkpoint without a representative from Comelec.

According to Arceño, Sustento did not violate any Comelec rules and there is no need for the presence of a Comelec officer.

Arceño emphasized that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the PNP are deputized by the Comelec to conduct an election checkpoint.

"We can't have a representative of Comelec in every checkpoint. In every town, we only have two personnel," Arceño added.

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PEOPLES JOURNAL

Page. 1

PNP: 15 killed in poll-related incidents since Jan. 10

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

THE Philippine National Police yesterday said total of 15 people were killed in election-related events since January 10, the start of campaign period.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor said of the 146 reported election-related incidents, 28 were validated as poll-related.

Of the 28, 15 persons were killed while nine others were injured.

The PNP also recorded 60 non-election-related incidents, 58 were suspected ERI while 43 persons involved in the incidents were unharmed.

Meanwhile, on the implementation of nationwide gun ban, the PNP listed 4,092 cases and 3,377 firearms and over 35,000 bullets were seized.

Based on the report of Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command (AFP-NOLCOM) the province of Abra has the most number of ERIs, followed by Ilocos Norte with 16 ERIs, Pangasinan and Pampanga were third with 14 cases of ERIs each, Cagayan has 13 ERIs, 11 in Benguet, 10 in Isabela, nine in Nueva Ecija, six in La Union and five in Ilocos Sur.

Isabela province established the most number of checkpoints with 83, followed by Abra with 27 checkpoints, Nueva Ecija with 20 checkpoints, 16 in Apayao, 12 in Tarmac, 10 in Bataan, seven in Pangasinan and Aurora, and six in Bulacan.

09 May 2016

Abante
UNA SA BALITA

Pahina. 1

Sagot namin kayo! -- AFP, PNP

GO OUT & VOTE!

"Lumabas po tayo at bumoto!"

Ito ang seryosong panghihikayat ng pamunuan ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kasabay ng paniniyak sa publiko na pangangalagaan ng pulisya at kasundahulan ang kaligtasan ng halalan sa araw na ito sa buong Pilipinas. *(Sundan sa pahina 2)*

Sagot namin kayo! -- AFP, PNP

GO OUT & VOTE!

Ni Betchai Julian

(Mula sa pahina 1)

Tahasang inihayag kahapon ng PNP na handa ang kanilang puwersa para sa pagkilos para panatilihing payapa, ligtas at maayos ang national at local elections ngayon, Mayo 9.

Kahapon pa lang, walong batalyong mga pulis na ang nakaautabay sa Camp Crame para sa deployment simula ngayong araw at sa mga susunod na mga araw kung kakailanganin ng sitwasyon.

Isinagawa kahapon ng umaga ang accounting of troops sa kampo kung saan nag-alay ng panalangin ang mga pulis na miyembro ng Reactionary Standby Support Force (RSSF).

Una nang sinabi ni PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor na ang mga nasabing pwersa ng RSSF ay standby force at pwede silang i-deploy anumang oras at araw kung kinakailangan.

"Ang RSSF ang tutugon sa mga emergency situations," wika ni Mayor.

Ipinangako rin ng PNP na mananatili silang alerto sa anumang kaganapan pero kumpiyansa sila na maidaraos nang payapa ang eleksyon ngayong araw.

AFP tutok din!

Tiniyak naman ni AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Col. Noel Detoyato na magkatuwang sila ng PNP sa pagkilos para magkaroon ng maayos at mapayapang halalan sa Lanao del Sur.

Sakay sa C-130 cargo plane ang 6 sa mahigit 100 pulis na ipinadala ng PNP para tumulong sa puwersa ng militar.

146 election-related incidents (ERIs)

Inihayag din kahapon ng PNP na umabot na sa 146 ang mga insidente na may kaugnayan sa halalan ang naitala simula nang ipatupad ang election period noong Enero 10, 2016 hanggang kahapon.

Ayon kay Mayor, sa nasabing bilang ay 28 pa lamang dito ay validated na ERIs kung saan 15 rito ang patay.

Habang 60 naman dito sa kabuuang bilang ang walang kaugnayan sa halalan at 58 naman ang pinagsususpetsahan pa lamang na election related, at 43 naman sa mga taong sangkot sa mga insidenteng ito ay unharmed o hindi nasaktan.

Samantala, sa pinakahuling impormasyon naman kaugnay ng pinaiiral na gun ban nasa 4,092 na ang naitalang lumabag dito.

Nasa 3,372 na mga armas naman ang nakumpiska at mahigit 35,000 na mga ammunitions ang nasamsam ng pulisya.

Full force sa Lanao del Sur

Isang batalyon ng PNP ang dumating na sa Lanao del Sur na siyang magsisilbing augmentation force ng militar sa nasabing lugar ng sa gayon mapanatili ang kaayusan ng halalan sa lugar.

Una rito, nagsiatrasan ang nasa 140 na guro sa lugar para magsilbing mga Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) dahil sa mainit na sitwasyon at labanan ng mga politiko sa lugar.

Mga miyembro ng PNP sa ARMM ang siyang magsisilbing mga Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEIs) na sumailalim sa training ng Comelec.

Kalma lang!

Sa kabuuan, ang mahigpit na tagubilin ng PNP sa mga botante ay magpakahinahon at huwag magpagamit sa mga elementong manggugulo, manglilito at magbabasik ng karahasan sa araw na ito ng eleksyon.

Importante umano na maging kalmado lang ang mga botante at iwasan ang tensyon sa kanilang pagitan at "respetuhin ang rule of law sa lahat ng oras".

Mismong si PNP chief Director General Ricardo Marquez ang nanawagan sa mga kandidato at kanikanilang tagasuporta na "iwasang gumawa ng mga pagkilos na hindi magdudulot ng maganda habang idinaraos ang national at local elections".

"Isang non-partisan at apolitical na organisasyon po ang PNP kaya mabigpit pong ipinagbabawal sa amin ang umanib o sumangga sa sinumang politiko dahil labag ito sa aming alituntunin," wika ni Marquez.

Ipaloob sa dasal ang boto -- Simbahan

Nanawagan ang mga opisyal ng Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) sa mga botante na magdasal, magsakripisyo, pakinggan ang puso at konsensiya sa pagpili ng ihahal na karapatdapat na lider ngayong araw ng Mayo 9, 2016.

Nagkakaisang sinabi nina Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, chairman ng CBCP Episcopal Commission on the Laity, Marbel Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco at Iligan Bishop Elenito Galido na tanging ang panalangin ang makapagbibigay-gabay upang magkaroon ng mapayapang puso ang bawat isa na magdudulot ng maayos at tapat na halalan.

Naniniwala umano ang mga ito na kapanawala ang pangahiba sa puso ay magkakaroon ng responsableng desisyon ang mga botante sa ibobotong kandidato na tunay na lingkod-bayan.

Magsasagawa ng prayer vigil ngayong araw para sa tapat at mapayapang halalan ang diocese ng Simbahang Katolika sa Pilipinas.

Sinabi ni Bishop Galido na maliban sa prayer vigil ay magkakaroon ng early mass ang lahat ng parokya sa Diocese of Iligan bago magbukas ang lahat ng polling precincts sa lalawigan. **(Noel Abuel)**

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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ELECTION SECURITY – Members of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines are posted inside the Corazon C. Aquino Elementary School in Quezon City yesterday, a major polling center in preparation for today's elections. (Mark Balmores)

ONLINE NEWS
09 MAY 2016
http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/

No security threats for Monday's elections - AFP

From the Philippine News Agency

With the conduct of elections just hours away, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced that it is still to detect any major security threats for Monday's electoral exercises.

This was stressed by AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Sunday.

"(It's) all system go for the AFP (in) the conduct of the national and local elections (Monday). So far there are no significant threats that have been monitored that should be a cause for worry," he added.

"We are confident that our forces along with those of the Philippine National Police are all adequately distributed and now emplaced to help ensure the successful, safe, secure, peaceful, orderly, and credible conduct of (Monday's) elections," Padilla stressed.

The AFP spokesperson also added that they are appealing to remain alert and vigilant so the entire country work together to ensure the sanctity of the ballots in all areas come election day and after.

Earlier, Padilla said deployment of all AFP units, tasked to secure the May 9 elections, has now reached 100 percent in all of the country's 81 provinces.

"Our various units on the ground are active in providing convoy escort, patrols, clearing and security operations, and joint checkpoint operations with the PNP; primarily to ensure the safe delivery of election equipment in different voting areas across the country," Padilla stressed.

Bulk of AFP units deployed for security duties are placed in conflict-affected provinces like Maguindanao, Lanao Del Sur, Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

http://dwdd.com.ph/

AFP Stands by You! | Respect Soldiers Non-Partisan Stand

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines has called on the public to respect its non-partisan stand during elections and never involve them in politics.

According to AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, all sides must respect the organization for being apolitical at all times because its interest is every Filipino, so they don't take sides.

The statement was issued after a video was uploaded on YouTube of men in military uniform and presenting themselves as "Network of Officers to Defend the Republic", claiming membership from the AFP and PNP, declaring a presidential candidate as a supporter and puppet of the Communist.

Previous to that, another video of men in military uniform with firearms threatened to execute members of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and survey firms should there be widespread cheating in the May 9 elections.

In an interview by DWDD with BGen Padilla, he stated that these videos are considered as mere propaganda and are meant to discredit the AFP and PNP. It is to be expected that during this season, propagandas from different political groups would arise for different purposes.

Padilla added that these men are impostors and are not members of the AFP or PNP, since all our soldiers are professionals and would stand by their beliefs and would never hide their true identities.

The acting AFP Chief of Staff General Glorioso Miranda has ordered the forming of an investigating team to look into the origin of these materials and the personalities or group behind them so they can be punished under our laws.

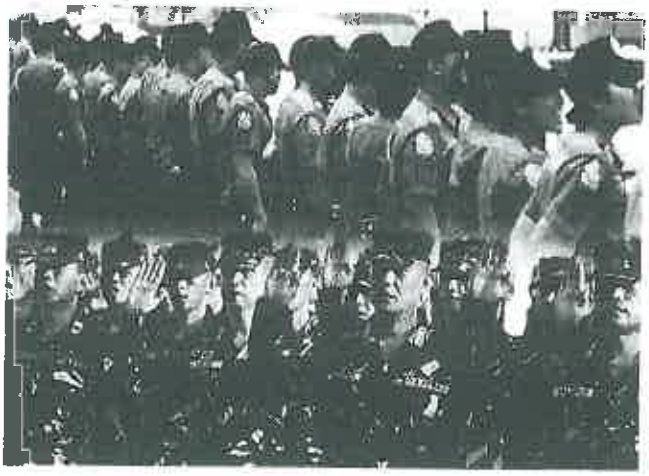
Currently, the AFP and PNP is focused in supporting the COMELEC in ensuring a safe and fair national and local elections.

Padilla reiterated to all concerned citizens to respect the non-partisan role of the organization, since they serve the whole country. Your AFP Stands by You! **AES / MCAG**

http://www.philstar.com/

AFP: No cause for worry, but forces ready for election day

By Alexis Romero



AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that since no threats are detected, it is ready for the nationwide elections. File photo

MANILA, Philippines – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday assured the public that it has not detected any major security threats for the May 9 elections.

"(It's) all system go for the AFP (in) the conduct of the national and local elections (Monday). So far there are no significant threats that have been monitored that should be a cause for worry," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"We are confident that our forces along with those of the Philippine National Police are all adequately distributed and now emplaced to help ensure the successful, safe, secure, peaceful, orderly, and credible conduct of (Monday's) elections," he added.

Padilla called on the public to remain alert and vigilant so the entire country will ensure the "sanctity of ballots in all areas come election day and after."

The AFP spokesman said its units have been deployed in all of the country's 81 provinces to secure the May 9 polls.

"Our various units on the ground are active in providing convoy escort, patrols, clearing and security operations, and joint checkpoint operations with the PNP; primarily to ensure the safe delivery of election equipment in different voting areas across the country," he said.

Padilla said the AFP has doubled the number of units designated in conflict-affected provinces such as Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga.

More than 54 million voters are expected to troop to polling precincts today to cast their votes.

The 125,000-strong armed forces has been placed on red alert to ensure enough manpower in the event of an emergency. The alert status places all military troops on standby.

Early this week, the military launched the National Election Monitoring Center to consolidate and coordinate information needed to ensure safe and fair polls.

The center will use the military's information-related capabilities to monitor poll preparations, the actual conduct of elections and the canvassing process. It will also monitor election-related violence especially in identified election watch areas.

Meanwhile, one civilian was killed and four civilians were wounded in three separate explosions in Maguindanao Saturday night.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Noel Detoyato said the incident happened at around 11:30 p.m. or 30 minutes before the end of the campaign period. The explosions occurred in an area about a kilometer from the headquarters of the 45th Infantry Battalion in Shariff Aguak town. They were believed to have originated from M203 or M79 grenade launchers.

"The AFP has already intensified its operations to apprehend the perpetrators. The casualties were brought to the Maguindanao Provincial Hospital," Detoyato said.

As this developed, six people, including two policemen, were arrested Saturday night in connection with a shooting incident in Gattaran, Cagayan.

Detoyato said the shooting incident happened in Barangay Naduran near the house of Roevahn Elizaga, a candidate for councilor.

Local policemen in the area held two civilian vehicles and arrested six people. They also recovered three M16 rifles, five cal .45, two cal. 38 and one 9mm pistol **—with a report by Rosette Adel**

http://www.inquirer.net/

Security forces on alert ahead of Monday polls

Agence France-Presse
05:26 PM May 8th, 2016

An armed Filipino trooper walks through a polling center in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on the eve of election day Sunday, May 8, 2016. AP

Tens of thousands of security forces fanned out across the Philippines Sunday on the eve of national polls, following a bitter and deadly election campaign plagued by rampant vote-buying and intimidation. Elections are a traditionally volatile time in a nation infamous for lax gun laws and a violent political culture, and they have been inflamed again this year by allegations of massive corruption from the local village to presidential level.

"Vote-buying is everywhere," Commission on Elections (Comelec) commissioner Luie Guia told reporters.

READ: Vote buying makes its presence felt

"We are receiving reports that everything is being used to buy votes, not only money. It could be (plastic) basins, groceries."

Such small gifts are an effective, if illegal, way for politicians to win support in a nation where roughly one quarter of its 100 million people live below the poverty line.

To try to check vote buying, the election commission has banned mobile phones in polling places. This is so people cannot photograph their ballots to prove to vote-buyers that they cast their ballots for the right candidates.

At the national level, presidential and vice presidential rivals are also accusing each other of trying to rig the elections.

President Benigno Aquino, who is limited by the constitution to a single term of six years, has warned the favorite to succeed him, Rodrigo Duterte, is a dictator in the making and will bring terror to the nation.

READ: Aquino fears return of another dictatorship

Duterte, mayor of the southern city of Davao, has in turn accused Aquino's administration of planning "massive cheating" to ensure that his preferred successor, former interior secretary Mar Roxas, wins.
Followers of Duterte, who has admitted links to vigilante death squads in Davao that rights groups say have killed more than 1,000 people, have warned of a "revolution" if he loses.

READ: Presidential favorite Duterte to 'butcher' criminals

Meanwhile, at least 15 people have died in election-related violence, according to national police statistics. In the latest suspected case, a grenade blast killed a nine-year-old girl behind the house of a powerful political warlord in the strife-torn province of Maguindanao late on Saturday, said Chief Inspector Jonathan del Rosario.

The girl's death has not yet been included in the tally, although it likely will be, according to del Rosario, spokesman for a police election-monitoring taskforce in Manila.

"This looks like it is election-related but we have a process we have to follow," he told AFP.
Del Rosario said 90 percent of the nation's police force, or about 135,000 officers, were already on election-related duty and had been authorised to carry their assault rifles. He said they were guarding polling and canvassing places and manning road checkpoints.

www.interaksyon.com/national

CPP to Miriam: NPA does not support Duterte nor any other candidate

By: interAksyon.com
May 8, 2016 7:49 AM

Lightning rally of the National Democratic Front. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MANILA - The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Sunday said it does not participate in the elections of the Philippine government nor does it endorse or support any of the presidential candidates.

However, its founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison has publicly announced that he would return to the country from his exile in the Netherlands if either Grace Poe or Rodrigo Duterte wins.

At the same time, the CPP's armed component, the New People's Army, has been known to collect fees from candidates who wish to campaign in areas under their control.
The CPP issued the clarification in reaction to recent statements by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that presidential candidate Davao City Mayor Duterte is the "official candidate" of the NPA.
"Contrary to Senator Santiago's claims yesterday, Mayor Duterte is not being endorsed nor supported by the party or NPA," said the CPP.
The CPP also dismissed reports by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that NPA members in Samar are campaigning for Duterte. "These are pure lies."
"Indeed, Mayor Duterte has espoused certain advocacies that strike a chord among the Filipino people and their national democratic forces, including calling for peace negotiations to address the roots of the armed conflict," pointed out the CPP.
"Duterte has mostly styled himself an anti-crime crusader, a socialist, and radical in an effort to win over the people who long have been disillusioned with the rotten ruling system," the CPP noted.
"However, Duterte has also advocated such counter-progressive neoliberal economic policies as expanding the public-private partnership program, prohibiting unions and strikes, providing big bourgeois compradors with state-guaranteed profits, liberalizing trade and providing foreign investors with even more incentives," added the CPP.

http://bomboradyo.com/

1 patay, 3 sugatan sa Maguindanao blast

By Bombo Koronadal

KORONADAL CITY - Isa ang patay, habang tatlo naman ang sugatan makaraang aksidenteng sumabog sa isang pamamahay ang M203-40mm grenade launcher sa Barangay Damalibi, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao dakong alas-11:30 kagabi.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Koronadal kay Lt Col. Ed Delos Reyes, batallion commander ng 34th Infantry Batallion, hindi umano inaasahan ang pagbagsak nang nasabing pasabog sa tahanan ng pamilya Mandigan.

Ang biktima ay kinilalang si Saudia Zaman Mandigan, 9; sugatan naman ang ina nitong si Bainanot Zaman Mandigan, 38; ama nitong si Wahid Guiasal Mandigan, 38, at nakababatang kapatid naa si Arabeh Mandigan, 7.

Hindi pa malinaw kung saan ito nanggaling dahil nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon ng militar.

Isa lamang umanong malakas na pagsabog ang narinig sa nasabing lugar at nadatnan ang apat na mga casualties.

http://bomboradyo.com/

Abra, may pinakamaraming naitalang election related incidents

By Bombo Anne Soberano

Simula nang ipatupad ang election period noong January 10, 2016 hanggang kahapon May 7, ang lalawigan ng Abra ang may pinakamaraming election related incidents ang naitala.

Pumapangalawa ang sa listahan ang Ilocos Norte na may 16 na ERI, Pangasinan at Pampanga tig 14, Cagayan 13, Benguet 11, Isabela 10, Nueva Ecija 9, La Union 6 at Ilocos Sur 5.

Ito'y sa kabila ng isinasagawang chekpoint operations ng militar at pulisya sa lalawigan.

Pinaka marami namang naka set-up na checkpoint operations ay sa lalawigan ng Isabela kung saan mayroong 83 checkpoints na itinalaga.

Kasunod ang Abra na may 27, Nueva Ecija 20, Apayao 16, Tarlac 12, Bataan 10, Pangasinan at Aurora tig-7 checkpoints, Ilocos Sur nasa 6 at tig-isa sa Bulacan at Bataan.