

# NCRPO all set to secure local bets' campaign

**MANILA** -- The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) is all set to secure the metropolis as the campaign period for local candidates begins on Friday.

NCRPO Director, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, said a total of 14,000 police personnel will be deployed in Metro Manila.

He also ordered all district directors to intensify police operations against private armed groups, criminal gangs, wanted persons, gun-for-hire groups and loose firearms.

The order covers the Manila Police District (MPD), Quezon City Police District (QCPD), Northern Police District (NPD), Southern Police District (SPD), and the Eastern Police District

(EPD).

"We will also increase the frequency of checkpoints in the metropolis to help deter criminal minds in executing their evil designs. I have strict orders to our commanders in the field to observe proper procedures and professionalism when conducting the checkpoints," Eleazar said.

He said the public may report discourteous and abusive police personnel to the nearest police station or at the NCRPO.

"I ask the public to be patient and understanding, as our security activities are for the good of everybody," Eleazar said.

Eleazar said the start of the campaign period also triggered

strict additional rules set by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"For the campaign period for local candidates, prohibited acts include appointment/hiring of new employees, creation of new positions, salary increases, and release/disbursement of public funds, among others," Eleazar said.

"(These) restrictions are in addition to certain acts already prohibited during the election period which include the gun ban and use of security personnel and/or bodyguards by those seeking positions unless authorized by the poll body, among others," he added.

The gun ban is in effect from January 13

to June 12.

The NCRPO director also called on all police officers to be non-partisan in handling political cases.

"I am reminding the local candidates to properly coordinate with the authorities concerned to secure necessary permits for their political rallies and mitings de avance. The proper permits and clearances will pave the way for a more secure and orderly gathering for candidates, audiences and the entire neighborhood," he said.

The campaign period for local candidates, such as governors, mayors, vice mayors and members of the House of Representatives will last from March 29 to May 11. (PNA)

# New engineering equipment to be used in high-impact projects: AFP

**MANILA** -- The newly-turned over engineering equipment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be utilized for the construction of high-impact projects like farm-to-market roads and repairs of damaged infrastructures during calamities.

"The engineering equipment is what we term as 'instruments of peace'. This will translate to more, and immediate services to the Filipinos through delivery of high-impact projects like farm-to-market roads and repairs during calamities which our country is prone to," AFP public affairs office chief, Col. Noel Detoyato said in a message to the Philippine News Agency, when asked how the military plans to use this engineering equipment.

Some of the 248 units of engineering equipment with a total contract price of PHP1.56 billion include telescopic cranes,

tracked dozers, road graders, scoop loaders, backhoe loaders, road rollers, transit mixers, dump trucks, and water lorries.

"This is a promise made more precise because it is responsive since the equipment will be pre-deployed to all our engineer units who are in the front-lines with our soldiers who are also serving as a bridge of government services," Detoyato added.

The supply and delivery of the engineering equipment is under Horizon 2 of the AFP Modernization Program, which was completed on Feb. 12, 2019.

The first batch, consisting of 114 units of equipment, was delivered to Camp Pintoy, Iligan City while the second batch of 134 units was delivered to Camp Aguinaldo, in Quezon City; Villamor Air Base, Pasay City and Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City.

Department of National Defense (DND) Undersecretary Cardozo Luna, who was the guest-of-honor and speaker, represented Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. The event was also attended by AFP chief-of-staff, Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. and the military's deputy chief-of-staff for logistics, Maj. Gen. Pio Q. Diñoso III.

"On behalf of the Secretary of National Defense, I am pleased to welcome you all to the symbolic turn-over ceremony of the 248 units of AFP engineering equipment acquired from Polytechnologies of the People's Republic of China intended for the rehabilitation of Marawi City and nearby affected areas," he added.

Luna said the various engineering equipment shall be used for humanitarian aid/disaster relief operations and other development programs of the national government. (PNA)

# PH formally requests EU to cease funding CPP-NPA 'fronts'

**MANILA** -- National Security Adviser and Vice Chairman of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTFELCAC) Hermogenes Esperon formally wrote to the European Union (EU) to "immediately cease" its funding being funnelled to groups acting as legal fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

In a letter to Gilles De Kerchove, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator dated March 26, Esperon said EU funds are being used to sustain terrorist activities of the longest existing communist terrorist organization in the world — the CPP-NPA — which is listed as a terrorist group by both the United States and the EU.

Esperon underscored that the funds are being used "to propagate terrorism" through international alliances and networks, and are utilized to finance terrorist front organizations to recruit, traffic, and exploit children to become

child warriors.

He added that EU funds are also being used "to recruit and exploit vulnerable sectors such as indigenous people (IP), the systematic destruction of the latter's culture and value system, and the murder of their leaders."

**Propagating terrorism**

Esperon said the CPP-NPA has successfully established international alliances in different parts of the world through its front organizations purportedly to address social ills afflicting the society.

As admitted in the CPP's publication entitled "Constitution and Program: Communist Party of the Philippines, 2016," Esperon said the group has already created its networks while boasting a strategy that includes armed struggle and the use of progressive alliances.

"Their former communist members knew very well that the CPP-NPA is using front organizations, which are symbolically

functioning in accordance with the same objectives and methods through violence," he said.

**Exploiting children**

In the letter, Esperon listed three Belgian NGOs which have "indirectly and unwittingly partnered" with various NGOs in the Philippines that act as legal fronts of the CPP-NPA, namely the SOLIDAGRO, Viva Salud, and KIYO.

Among the listed Philippine NGOs were the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (ALCADEV); IBON Foundation; Karapatan; Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation, Inc.; the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines; the Salugpungan Ta'tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center, Inc.; the Alliance of Health Workers; the Kilusang Mayo Uno; Gabriela; and ACT.

Esperon said the ALCADEV and Salugpungan are identified as CPP-NPA

alternative learning centers and schools.

"It is appalling that these entities are used to radicalize children with the end view of turning them into child warriors and future leaders of the CPP-NPA communist-terrorist groups," the letter reads.

These learning institutions were found to be filled with books published by IBON Foundation, which contents "clearly show that it is intended to radicalize students by urging them to be grievously critical to the government."

"The IBON books attempt to inculcate in the minds of the students fabricated and unfounded claims that the government is remiss in its obligation to its citizenry," he added.

**Recruiting IPs**

The official said the CPP-NPA also recruits people from the vulnerable sector such as peasants, fishermen, and IPs, among others.

"Through these front

organizations, the CPP-NPA is able to solicit and exploit funds from countries in the EU and the EU itself to support legitimate projects that are made to appear as aiding the poor," he noted.

Esperon bared that 60 percent of the funding received by the Filipino NGOs are diverted to the NPA through their "triple or multiple funding scheme."

The scheme is said to be implemented by simultaneously submitting a single proposal to different countries.

"Countries or funding agencies who have given their seal of approval are unaware that they are funding a particular project, which had already been funded by other countries or funding agencies.

As a result, a single project receives double funding, Esperon said, hence the front organizations can easily clear and liquidate the use of the solicited money when au-

thoritarianism in the Free World," Locsin speech read.

"In this endeavor, EU NGOs support a cause unquestionably lethal but totally unredeemed by any prospect of success. Their generous contributions promise at best the prospect of a small and ragged parade under a cracked marble arch to the strains of a broken Hallelujah. As always, the Philippines fights its battles alone; it needs no help; it fears no opposition from any quarter; but it wouldn't mind a little."

**Terrorism funding illegal**

Michel Goffin, Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines, during Thursday's turnover of documents, said EU and Belgium consider it illegal to fund terrorism, whether directly or indirectly.

Louis Dey, Programme Manager on Governance (Human Security & Justice), accepted a copy of the documents for the EU. (PR/PNA)

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