



*Republic of the Philippines*

**S E N A T E**

*Pasay City*

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**F O R** : **HON. FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*Senate President*

**T H R U** : **THE SENATE SECRETARY**  
**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION**  
**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**  
**THE DIRECTOR FOR COMMITTEE AFFAIRS BUREAU**  
**THE DIRECTOR FOR COMMITTEE SUPPORT SERVICE "A"**

**F R O M** : **MR. XERXES S. NITAFAN**  
*Legislative Committee Secretary*  
*Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs*

**S U B J E C T** : **SUMMARY REPORT ON THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CONDUCTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC**  
**ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS, HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1,**  
**2005, 1:00 P.M. AT THE SENATOR CLARO M. RECTO ROOM,**  
**SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

---

May I respectfully submit the attached summary report on the first public hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs on **Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184** (*Resolution directing the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the Valentine's Day bombings in Makati, Davao City and General Santos City, with the end view of recommending policy measures to ensure public security in areas of convergence like bus terminals, airports, commercial establishments and vital installations nationwide*), which was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, 1:00 p.m. at the Senator Claro M. Recto Room, Senate of the Philippines

For your Honor's information.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

### FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Senator Claro M. Recto Room

Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City

### AGENDA

- **Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184** – “Resolution directing the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the Valentine’s Day bombings in Makati, Davao City and General Santos City, with the end view of recommending policy measures to ensure public security in areas of convergence like bus terminals, airports, commercial establishments and vital installations nationwide” (Introduced by Senator Manuel B. Villar Jr.)

**SENATORS PRESENT:** SENATORS MANUEL B. VILLAR JR. (*Chairman, Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs*), ALFREDO S. LIM, and RODOLFO G. BIAZON

**SENATORS REPRESENTED:** SENATORS RICHARD J. GORDON, MANUEL “LITO” M. LAPID, JUAN PONCE ENRILE, JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA, PANFILO M. LACSON, and AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.

**GUESTS/RESOURCE PERSONS:** GENERAL VICTOR A. MAYO, *Deputy Director General, National Security Council (NSC)*; BRIGADIER GENERAL CESAR P. GARCIA JR., *Director General, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA)*; VICE ADMIRAL ARISTON V. DELOS REYES JR., *Vice Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)*; MAJOR GENERAL PEDRO C. RAMBOANGA JR., *Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (J3), AFP*; POLICE DIRECTOR AVELINO RAZON JR., *Regional Director, National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO), Philippine National Police (PNP)*; POLICE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT SIMEON P. DIZON JR., *Regional Director, Police Regional Office XI (PRO 11), PNP*; POLICE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ANTONIO BILLONES, *Regional Director, Police Regional Office XII (PRO 12), PNP*; POLICE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT FLORANTE J. BAGUIO, *Chief, Center Operations Control, PNP*; FIRE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ROGELIO F. ASIGNADO, *Officer in Charge, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)*; and UNDERSECRETARY ABRAHAM A. PURUGGANAN, *Chief, Task Force for the Security of Critical Infrastructure (TFSCI)*

### SUMMARY REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING’S DISCUSSIONS

At 1:36 p.m., the public hearing was called to order by Senator Villar, Chairman of the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs.

Senator Villar stated that it is the first public hearing of the Committee on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184 which seeks to investigation, in aid of legislation, into the Valentine’s Day bombings in Makati, Davao City and General Santos City, with the end view of recommending policy measures to ensure public security in areas of convergence like bus terminals, airports, commercial establishments and vital installations nationwide. He then indicated that the series of bombings during the Valentine’s Day are condemnable acts of terror aimed at victimizing and intimidating innocent people wherein at least 12 persons were killed and 136 others have been wounded as the three bomb explosions occurred in the span of one hour on that day.

He said that the conduct of the public hearing on the issue comes at the heels of the recent development of having identified and arrested some suspects by the law enforcement authorities

last week. He therefore pointed out that the Committee would like to be apprised of the actions taken by the law enforcement agencies on the aftermath of the bombing incidents specifically in the improvement of intelligence information-gathering and in coming up with policy measures in order to ensure public security in areas of convergence like bus terminals, airports, commercial establishments and vital installations nationwide to prevent the occurrence of similar acts.

As a brief backgrounder, Deputy Director General Mayo stated that right after the bombing of the ill-fated MV Superferry 14 in February 2004 by members of the Raja Soliman Revolutionary Movement, a new radical group formed by Balik-Islam with strong links with the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), there hastened the creation of a dedicated body to coordinate and supervise the implementation of the national government's anti-terrorism policies and plans in addressing this new dimension of terrorism. While having recalled that there was a Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (COCIS) that was established before but has already been abolished, he informed the Committee that the President of the Philippines has directed the creation of the inter-agency Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF) on March 24, 2004.

In addition, he informed the Committee that the ATTF's major function is to formulate, supervise and coordinate government strategies, policies, plans and measures necessary to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism. He said that the ATTF is directly under the Office of the President and chaired by the Executive Secretary through the National Security Council Cabinet Group. He further said that the National Security Adviser who serves as ATTF vice-chairman would be the one exercising the operational and monitoring functions at the national coordination level through the ATTF operations and coordination center. He also indicated that there are 46 member agencies under the ATTF, which include the PNP, AFP and the Philippine Coast Guard, among its members. He then stated that the members of the ATTF have broken into clusters and meet on a daily basis.

Police Senior Supt. Baguio stated that what happened last February 14, 2005 were separate bombing incidents which occurred in three major cities in the country, first in General Santos City, subsequently in Davao City and lastly in Makati City. He said that there were similarities in the three incidents wherein the bombings were accordingly committed by the suspected terrorists not using a sophisticated type but an improvised explosive device, which is apparently the favorite bombing device used by criminal elements or terrorists.

He said that the PNP has taken some actions a few days before the bombing incident considering that as early as December last year it has been receiving intelligence information that terrorists would bomb the cities of Manila, Zamboanga, Davao and General Santos. He stated that the PNP accordingly disseminated this information to all its field commanders last February 11, 2005 in order to intensify police operations in thwarting and preempting the bombing plan of terrorists as there was a persistent report that they would create terrorist activities in populated areas although the police authorities did not receive any specific time and target.

Police Senior Supt. Baguio informed the Committee that the PNP has performed the following actions after the said bombing incidents: 1) the different police field commanders had activated their incident management committee; 2) the PNP leadership had declared full alert nationwide; 3) post-blast investigation were conducted and follow-up operations were likewise conducted by the different police units; 4) the NCRPO was augmented by some police elements from nearby regions and from the national headquarters of the PNP; and 5) the national command of the AFP and the national regional command had likewise augmented the NCRPO for additional uniformed personnel to ensure that no more similar incident would be perpetuated by criminal elements.

In addition, he indicated that the police regional offices in Regions 11, 12 and the NCR had conducted intensified follow-up operations wherein few hours after the bombing incidents, the PNP was able to come up with sketches of the suspects through the description of witnesses. He likewise indicated that such sketches of the suspects were respectively disseminated to different operating units of the PNP.

As to what is currently being done by the PNP, he noted that the PNP has continued the implementation of the three-tiered defense system which was formulated by the Director for Operations through the direction of the PNP chief. He said that this system is a basic framework against all threats including terrorism which is in partnership with the community with having three distinct phases or components: intelligence, target hardening and incident management.

Police Senior Supt. Baguio disclosed the assessment of the PNP that the recent bombings could have been the retaliatory acts of the elements of the Mindanao separatist groups over the bombing operations conducted by the government forces at the suspected hideouts of Khaddafy Janjalani, Abu Solaiman and the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) leaders on January 27, 2005 in Datu Piyang, Maguindanao. He said that it could also be a diversionary tactic against the ongoing operations in Jolo against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) breakaway group.

He then noted that the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which has an established link with the Al Qaeda and JI groups, claimed responsibilities for the recent bombings as having been admitted by the ASG spokesman through the media. He stated that the ASG admitted that it was responsible for the bombings because the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) could not openly make similar claims owing to the ongoing peace negotiations with the Philippine government. He added that the ASG readily admitted the responsibility in order to bolster its capability since it has been marginalized for some time now due to the lack of operational funds considering that Middle East funds were cut off when Kair Munduz was arrested in Basilan in October 2004 which resulted to the backsliding of 3 ASG accounts.

Moreover, he indicated that based on the recent developments the JI, ASG and maybe a faction of MILF would continue to sow terror in the urban centers in their efforts to create a negative impact on the economy and political stability of the country. He further indicated that the conduct of bombings could be in response to the JI's offer for cash reward to every successful bombing operation and this could have attracted the terror groups to broaden their operations not only in Mindanao but also in any other urban centers in the country.

Asked by Senator Villar whether there is any immediate threat especially in Metro Manila after the bombing incidents, Police Senior Supt. Baguio stated that the threat is persistent but he indicated however that there is no specific threat of any target as of the moment.

In reply to Senator Biazon's query regarding the creation of the ATTF, Deputy Director General Mayo stated that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo created the ATTF which is directly under the Office of the President with the Executive Secretary as its chair and the National Security Adviser as its vice-chair through the NSC cabinet group. He further stated that the ATTF is a policy-making body as well as a coordinating body which exercises monitoring function over 46 agencies of the government including Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration, PNP Aviation Security Group, Philippine Marines, among others, with the PNP and the AFP as the main operating agencies. He therefore informed the Committee that the ATTF does not only make policies but it could also direct agencies on the ground to move as well as collect information and perform intelligence operations.

Asked by Senator Biazon what is the definition of terrorism that the ATTF has adopted in the formulation of its policies against terrorism, Deputy Director General Mayo replied that the ATTF is coming up with a version of an anti-terrorism bill of the government wherein in its working draft provides that “terrorism is the premeditated, threatened, actual use of violence, force or by any other means of destruction perpetuated against persons or properties or the environment with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear or chaos to the general public, group of persons or particular person, or of coercing or intimidating the government to do or to abstain from doing an act”. He then stated that this is the working definition which is being used now by the ATTF as the basis of all its anti-terrorism policies in directing the 46 agencies under its supervision.

As regards the operations of the PNP in the NCRPO, Police Director Razon said that his office made some verification with the intelligence coordinating agencies. He also said that he placed the NCRPO on heightened alert with the emphasis on the guarding of vital installations and key economic points. Lastly, he said that the NCRPO intensified its police visibility points in Metro Manila and the establishment of 37 checkpoints starting at 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m.

With respect to the position of the NICA, Director General Garcia stated that there is a need to amend the Anti-Wiretapping Law to enhance the government’s intelligence gathering capability because most of the communications between terrorists organizations are done electronically through modern digital communications.

As to the query of Senator Enrile about the registration of all SIM cards, Director General Garcia indicated that in the course of police investigation into the incidence of terrorism there are accordingly a whole range of cellular phone numbers that are used, which are particularly found in cases where the bombs are recovered intact along with the cellular phone. He said that if all the SIM cards are registered then the police authorities could get the memory of the cellular phone in which it contained the telephone numbers that have been called through it.

Due to lack of material as the plenary session is about to start, Senator Villar stated that the Committee would be taking into consideration the statements and remarks of the resource persons in the drafting of its report. He also stated that in the next meeting, he would be calling for an executive session so that the Committee members would be briefed properly on the capability of the JI.

At 2:54 p.m. the public hearing was suspended.

*Prepared and submitted by Mr. XERXES S. NITAFAN, Legislative Committee Secretary,  
Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs*