Survey of the Anti–Terrorism Initiatives of The Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Office VII

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Abstract. Terrorists aim to destabilize their target's economic, social, and political system through violent actions. Effective anti-terrorism initiatives require knowledge and awareness programs to enhance public vigilance. This paper examines the anti-terrorism initiatives of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Office 7, shedding light on efforts to maintain peace and order. The PNP Regional Office 7 has implemented various initiatives to address the threat of insurgency, including the '*Police sa Barangay*' program, collaboration with CCTN T.V. for awareness programs, enhanced intelligence monitoring by the Regional Intelligence Division (RID), establishment of the Barangay Intelligence Network (BIN), threat assessments, Basic Internal Security Operation Course (BISOC) and SWAT Course, Explosion Ordinance Disposal (EOD), and information dissemination through foldable fans and posters in terminals. Additionally, the PNP Regional Office 7 - RID has engaged stakeholders such as Muslim leaders, mall security officers, and managers of motels, inns, and pension houses through meetings, counter-terrorism inter-agency SIMEX, and regular conferences (e.g., RID Family Conferences, RPICC Conference). These initiatives demonstrate the region's commitment to combating terrorism and maintaining community peace and order.

Keywords: terrorism, anti-terrorism initiatives, insurgency, peace and order, Philippine National Police

Introduction

The Philippine state aggressively counters hostile acts against its citizens, property, or national interest, as stated in Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9372, also known as the Human Security Act of 2017. The Act aims to protect life, liberty, and property from terrorism, condemning it as inimical to national security and making terrorism a crime against the Filipino people, humanity, and international law.

Terrorism is the unlawful use of force against individuals or property to achieve religious, political, or ideological goals, often causing fear and potentially changing one's way of life. Terrorist operations are carefully planned to ensure proper execution and minimize failure, with groups often exhibiting camaraderie and cooperation. To combat terrorism, the government must develop anti-terrorism tactics using preventive defensive measures to reduce vulnerability to damage, injury, and loss. Identifying terrorist threats is crucial for establishing responsive interventions.

In light of the diverse nature of terrorism, there is a need for anti-terrorism initiatives that involve suitable awareness programs to awaken the public vigilance. Governments must consider stakeholder analysis and public involvement to ensure that general welfare of their people (Handbook on PNP Three-Tiered Defense System, 2002). Public support is crucial in the fight against terrorism. Region 7, due to its demographic characteristics and tourism, is a vulnerable target for terrorism. In fact, such as confirmed plot to kidnap tourists in Central Visayas, underscores the need for vigilance. Cebu's status as a tourism destination makes it particularly susceptible to international threats (Richter and Waugh, 1986 as cited by Hitchcock and Putra, 2007). Following the Marawi insurgency, local governments have focused on preparing for and preventing violent acts of local terrorism. This paper describes the anti-terrorism initiatives of the PNP Regional Office 7, aiming to maintain peace and order in the region.

Review of Related Literature

Terrorism: Nature and Characteristics. Terrorism is used to support military or political goals across the spectrum of conflict and plays a significant role in conventional warfare and insurgency. Terrorist actions can disrupt economic functions, increase social anxiety, undermine government credibility, and eliminate opposition leaders (U.S. Marine Corps, 2002).

Terrorists are driven by goals that lead them to commit violent acts, such as causing instability in their target's economic, social, and political environment. Short-term terrorist goals include undermining government credibility and economy, gaining recognition, disrupting communication, demonstrating power, acquiring funds and equipment, freeing prisoners, delaying the political process, influencing elections, demoralizing security forces, intimidating specific groups, and causing governments to overreact. Long-term goals include influencing top-level decisions and gaining legitimate recognition for their cause (U.S. Marine Corps, 2002).

According to Richardson (2006) as cited by Canter (2009), terrorism has seven crucial characteristics; it is politically motivated, involves violence

or the threat of violence, communicates a message, involves actions and victims that are symbolically significant, is carried out by sub-state groups, targets victims different from the audience, and deliberately targets civilians. Giddens (2009) identified two types of terrorism: "old-style" terrorism, which is primarily local and focused on nationalism, and "new-style" terrorism, which is a product of globalization and reflects the increasing interdependence of the world. Terrorism is an emerging global concern that causes a unique form of trauma (Slone & Shoshani, 2017). In fact, Bodrero (1999) stated that terrorism poses a greater threat to democracy. Therefore, identifying terrorist targets and incidents is crucial for national readiness.

Terrorism: The case in the Philippines. Since time immemorial, Philippines has faced acts of terrorism. For example, on May 23, 1976, six hijackers detonated grenades on a commercial plane at a Philippine runway when their demands were not met. In 1991, suspected terrorists attempted to bomb the United States embassy in Manila. Since 2000, acts of terrorism, including bombings in food markets, airports, buses, and ferry boats have killed or harmed thousands of Filipino people (The Hindustan Times, 2007).

The recent insurgency in Marawi City has garnered global attention. The city has long been a hotbed of insurgent movements, Islamist groups, and criminal gangs opposed to the Philippine government (Paddock & Villamore, 2017). Recently, Maute militants in Marawi City, named after a local clan that has become powerful by aligning with other extremist groups, took hostages, burned buildings, and displaced tens of thousands of residents. The conflict, which has claimed over 100 lives, has challenged the government's control over the city (Griffiths, 2017). Hernandez (2017) suggests that the Moro conflict has emerged from societal fragmentation and division, making it a complex issue.

According to The Hindustan Times (2007), Al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Abu Sayyaf are some of the terrorist groups reportedly operating in the Mindanao region. These groups have claimed innocent lives in the Philippines through staged bombings and kidnappings. They are included on Washington's list of foreign terrorist organizations. Consequently, injustices and killings have turned Zamboanga City into a lawless area (Glionna, 2009).

The Philippine congress drafted the Human Security Act of 2007 to address enduring struggles for secession and the growth of terrorist networks. The Act provides separate punishment for terrorists and secessionists, aligning with the country's policy against terrorism while protecting human rights, a key component of democracy. The Act

distinguishes terrorism from other criminal acts that threaten the general welfare, reflecting the Philippines' strong stance against terrorism through the enactment of various laws to maintain peace and safety within its national territory.

Despite efforts to prioritize domestic terrorism preparedness by national and local governments in the Philippines, researchers suggest that some local governments are not adequately prepared to respond to terrorism threats. Additionally, Maynard (2005) noted that local agencies continue to face challenges in intelligence gathering, even though law enforcement units have been mobilized to align their intelligence efforts with local needs. It is imperative for local agencies to have adequate intelligence resources to support their anti-terrorism initiatives and programs.

How to counteract terrorism? Bodrero (1999) outlines five essential processes to combat local extremism. Firstly, the planning stage involves identifying areas vulnerable to threat or attack, securing agreements from multiple agencies, and maintaining a list of response organizations. Deliberate planning enables administrators to respond effectively to terrorist incidents and aids in preventing attacks. Law enforcement must recognize terrorist threats and be prepared to deter and prevent domestic terrorist attacks. Secondly, the threat assessment stage addresses terrorist threats, evaluating and distinguishing constitutionally safeguarded rhetoric from criminal acts. A formal research and evaluation process is crucial to accomplishing this task successfully. Thirdly, the target identification stage categorizes terrorists' targets into five broad categories: (1) Symbol or public message targets, including landmarks, utilities, government buildings, universities, and businesses involved in sensitive industries; (2) Government-owned or -operated facilities, such as tunnels, airports, bridges, and law enforcement buildings; (3) Military targets like bases and testing facilities; (4) Cyber targets including air traffic control centers, financial networks, and utility distribution networks; and (5) Individual targets, such as kidnapping and assassination, to achieve terrorist objectives. Fourthly, the intelligence stage involves careful assessment of extremists' activities for evidence of criminal characteristics. Lastly, the training stage emphasizes the formation of response and emergency divisions, focusing on the functions, roles, and duties of various vital agencies.

According to Rifkind and Elworthy (2006), an effective initiative to prevent terrorism relies on social, community, and intercultural cooperation, emphasizing social inclusion and eliminating discrimination. Equality and

empowerment, making citizens feel co-responsible for shared activities, are significant in preventing terrorism at the community level. Measures may include fair employment legislation, addressing social needs, and education reforms to achieve community cohesion, decrease social exclusion, and prevent radicalization. Regular dialogue with marginalized and disaffected groups, especially young people, and risk assessment of communities to identify groups threatened by radicalization are essential.

A notable example of a successful anti-terrorism initiative is seen in Davao City, Philippines. Following the bombings at the Roxas Night Market, the city implemented various security measures and initiatives to combat lawless armed groups. These include the launch of *"Oplan Bulabog"* by the Davao City Police office (DCPO) to locate suspected terrorist group members hiding in the city, the first Davao City Anti-Terrorism Forum initiated by the city government to raise awareness and increase vigilance among focal persons and stakeholders, and the training of 900 volunteer police auxiliary (VPA) and 48 Special Weapon and Tactical (SWAT) members to enhance security. Heightened security measures and intelligence monitoring, such as increased fixed checkpoints, random inspections, and additional security cameras throughout the city, were implemented. The city also passed an ordinance penalizing individuals for leaving unattended baggage to prevent unnecessary public panic (SunStar Davao, 2017).

The need for inclusivity and participation in anti-terrorism initiatives. Terrorists do not have a specific number to be revealed, imprisoned, or killed worldwide. According to Rifkind and Elworthy (2006), their increasing numbers are controlled by the level of anger and hate that inspire people to join their ranks. Thus, addressing hate and anger is crucial. Inclusive participation in governmental activities, policy-making, and programs can help prevent extremism among citizens.

Putnam (2007) suggests that governments should effectively address citizens' demands, not merely uphold democracy. Policy outcomes in decision-making depend on the resources of different policy actors and the level of participation. In a democratic country, public policies are expected to align with the needs and preferences of citizens. Policies, whether in the public or private sphere, serve as instruments through which societies govern themselves and attempt to direct human behavior in an acceptable manner. Citizens and the government should collaborate in crafting policies to solve social problems.

In an interview with BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific (2006), Ronaldo Puno emphasized the importance of preventing terrorism through information

hardening rather than relying solely on the capabilities of police and military personnel. Planning for an attack should involve the people, work with the press, and recognize the competing demands on politicians. These actions should align with democratic norms. Simply involving citizens in domestic preparedness, beyond advising them to be vigilant, can be immensely helpful. Community participation can effectively enhance policy implementation in the policy process, leading to desired outcomes (Bell, 2004 as cited by Nunez, 2014).

Research Question

This study surveyed the anti-terrorism initiatives of the PNP regional office 7 to document peace and safety measures against insurgency in the region.

Methods

This study utilized the descriptive qualitative method. Data on the PNP RO 7's anti-terrorism initiatives were gathered through document review and in-depth interview with identified key informants. As a survey or documentation, data were presented and discussed based on the chronology of the initiatives vis-à-vis the mandated functions of the PNP.

Results and Discussion

The PNP is responsible for maintaining peace and order throughout the country, ensuring that citizens abide by the law for everyone's safety. They also implement activities and programs to inform and empower citizens about their rights and where to seek help in case of threats to life, liberty, and property, such as terrorism or insurgency. As protectors of the people, the PNP regional office VII formulated the following initiatives to prepare for and prevent acts of terrorism in the region.

'Police sa Barangay' Program. The *'Police sa Barangay'* program of PNP 7 was created through a memorandum circular issued by the regional director. In each barangay, PNP 7 assigns at least one Police Barangay responsible for monitoring the area. They monitor acts of terrorism, terrorist personalities, and terrorist threats at the barangay level, along with crime prevention and protecting the people. The program enhances information collection from the barangay level useful for intelligence operations and identifying terrorists and crime personalities. The handbook on PNP Three-Tiered Defense System against terrorism emphasizes intelligence gathering to assess suspected enemies and identify vulnerable targets. Local Government Executives (LGE) must conduct their own activities for

intelligence gathering in residential and commercial areas to ensure citizen vigilance.

Table 1: Matrix on PNPRO7 Anti-Terrorism Initiatives

Department	Mandated Functions on Human Induced Hazards	Actual Initiatives and Programs
Philippine National Police Regional Office VII (PNP 7)	The PNP shall have the ff. functions: 1. Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of lives and properties; 2. Maintain peace and order and take all necessary steps to ensure public safety; 3. Investigate and prevent crimes, effect the arrest of criminal offenders, bring offenders to justice and assist in their prosecution' 4. Exercise the general powers to make arrest, search and seizure in accordance with the Constitution and pertinent laws; 5. Detain an arrested person for a period not beyond what is prescribed by law, informing the person so detained of all his rights under the Constitution; 6. Issue licenses for the possession of firearms and explosives in accordance with law; 7. Supervise and control the training and operations of security agencies and issue licenses to operate security agencies, and to security guards and private detectives, for the practice of their professions; and 8. Perform such other duties and exercise all other functions as may be provided by law. (Section 2, RA 8551)	1. *'Police sa Barangay'* Program 2. PNP in collaboration with CCTN T.V. Channel Awareness Program 3. Strengthening the Intelligence Monitoring of the Regional Intelligence Division (RID) 4. Barangay Intelligence Network (BIN) 5. Threat Assessment conducted by PNP 7 6. Basic Internal Security Operation Course (BISOC) 7. SWAT Course 8. Explosion Ordinance Disposal (EOD) 9. Information Dissemination using Foldable Fan 10. Posters on Terminals *PNP 7 Regional Intelligence Division (PNP 7 –RID)* 1. Conduct Meetings to Stakeholders (Muslim Leaders, Security Officer of Malls, Managers of Motels, Inns, and Pension Houses) 2. SIMEX on Counter Terrorism Inter-Agency 3. Scheduled Regular Conferences (RID Family Conferences, RPICC Conference)

A notable example of the success of the 'Police sa Barangay' Program occurred on Bohol Island, as shared by PI1:

> The attack in Bohol exemplified a community-police effort. A resident promptly spotted the terrorist and reported the incident to the police. The police assigned to that barangay was the first point of contact for civilians, and they then relayed the information to higher authorities

It is true that terrorists are enemies of the people, and since most victims of terrorist activity are innocent bystanders, public support for the

war against terror is crucial (Handbook on PNP Three-Tiered Defense System against Terrorism). Therefore, community participation enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of achieving outcomes (Bell, 2004 as cited by Nunez, 2014). The *'Police sa Barangay'* program is one such initiative crafted by the PNP to prevent terrorism.

Awareness Program of PNP through CCTN channel. Every Wednesday afternoon from three-thirty to four-thirty, the PNP airs a segment on the CCTN TV channel aimed at raising awareness of significant issues related to peace and security. They invite guest speakers to discuss various topics involving peace, safety, and security, as well as showcase current policies, programs, and accomplishments of the PNP.

The CCTN-PNP program is considered one of the PNP's awareness programs and a means of disseminating important information to the public, especially on terrorism-related issues. They featured the Abu Sayyaf terrorist attack in Bohol, which was a concrete example of terrorist acts in the Central Visayas region. In line with this, the City Government of Davao conducted the Davao City Anti-Terrorism Forum, which successfully raised awareness and increased the vigilance of all focal persons and stakeholders.

According to PI1, Abu Sayyaf is considered a terrorist group because they are involved in kidnapping for ransom and killing innocent people. In fact, according to the Hindustan Times (2007), the Abu Sayyaf and the Al-Qaeda linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) are some of the terror groups reportedly operating in the Mindanao Region, claiming innocent lives in the Philippines through staged bombings and kidnappings.

The CCTN-PNP program serves as a platform for informing the public about terrorism threats, if any, and providing guidelines and security measures to prevent and minimize loss of life and property destruction. The fourteen pillars of the policy of action to address terrorism, a framework defining the government's overall agenda against terrorist acts, include the office of the Press Secretary maintaining strong relationships with the media to garner support in implementing government actions and policies against terrorism. Through media utilization, the public will be enlightened about the purpose behind these policies and actions.

Intelligence Monitoring of the Regional Intelligence Monitoring Division. The PNP has specialized units dedicated to intelligence monitoring to ensure the validation of information and the proper assessment of reports. These units are responsible for monitoring insurgency areas and terrorist threats within their jurisdiction. This proactive approach greatly aids in preventing

terrorist attacks and disseminating accurate information based on thorough investigation. Such efforts are crucial, as outlined by the U.S. Marine Corps (2002), which emphasizes the importance of understanding terrorist goals, intentions, and capabilities, as well as maintaining an active intelligence program to prepare for and prevent acts of terrorism.

Moreover, Bodrero (1999) outlined five processes necessary to combat local extremism, with the fourth stage focusing on the intelligence stage, where police officers carefully assess extremists' activities for evidence of criminal behavior.

The PNP Regional Intelligence Division accepts and gathers information from the public, community, and citizens for validation before it becomes an official intelligence report. It is important to note that raw information differs from intelligence, which is characterized as information that has been verified, validated, and carefully analyzed by experts.

KI1 added that...

"For example, a report of a bomb threat at SM is considered raw information until verified for accuracy. Once validated, the report gains intelligence value"

According to the handbook on PNP Three-Tiered Defense System against Terrorism, intelligence involves understanding the enemy and identifying potential targets. However, Maynard (2005) noted that local agencies still face challenges in intelligence gathering, despite the government's efforts to utilize law enforcement units to align intelligence with the needs of specific localities. It is crucial for local agencies to have intelligence resources to support their antiterrorism initiatives and programs.

Barangay Intelligence Network. The BIN is responsible for gathering information at the barangay level. The PNP, led by a commander responsible for information gathering across all barangays in Cebu Province, conducts weekly or monthly meetings with various Barangay Intelligence Networks (BINs) to collect updates on peace and safety, insurgency areas, terrorist threats, and current safety and security issues.

BINs are federations due to their increasing numbers throughout Cebu Province. Each BIN includes at least one or two civilian members responsible for identifying crime personalities and criminals in their communities. Civilian members undergo a Background Information Check before approval to join the BIN.

Threat Assessment conducted by PNP 7. Threat assessment relies on reports from the public to the intelligence division of the PNP. Once a report is received, the division can assess if there is an impending threat to general safety and welfare. There are two kinds of intelligence reports/information: A1 and A2. A1 is classified as follows: if the source witnessed the event firsthand, if the source is involved in the planning of violent actions, if the source personally knows the individuals involved and has concrete knowledge of the plans, and A1 information is validated and one hundred percent true.

The second type is A2, which consists of reports or information received via telephone from an unknown individual. Threat assessment is crucial, especially considering Bodrero's (1999) study, which outlined five processes necessary to combat local extremism. The second process, after the planning stage, is threat assessment, which involves evaluating and differentiating constitutionally safeguarded rhetoric from criminal acts. A formal process of research and evaluation of circumstances, situations, and conditions is required to successfully accomplish this crucial task, which is within the capability of the PNP-RID.

Regarding terrorist threat assessment, according to KI1...

"Cebu is generally peaceful; however, we must remain vigilant against potential terrorist threats. While we hope for continued peace, recent events like those in Marawi remind us of the need to enhance our intelligence and preventive measures"

The handbook on the PNP Three-Tiered Defense System against Terrorism emphasizes that while terrorism can occur unpredictably, past experiences can help prepare the government's defense system. To defeat terrorism, it is crucial to eliminate any openings, opportunities, or vulnerabilities. Diminishing terrorism's appeal as a political weapon involves mobilizing the masses and citizenry whom terrorists seek to control through fear. Vigilant and united action is key to weakening terrorism's power. The PNP in Region VII takes a proactive approach to addressing the threat of terrorism.

In threat assessment, the PNP Region VII evaluates specific threats or potential threats based on their capacity to commit crimes and cause destruction. KI1 explained the process of assessing a terrorist threat:

"If a threat involves two persons carrying short firearms, it is considered negligible. A reported threat is not considered a terrorist threat if it lacks the capability to deploy any paraphernalia that can cause damage and danger"

This implies that the PNP VII assesses a specific threat thoroughly. Moreover, the PNP 7 Regional Intelligence Division conducted meetings with different stakeholders in Region 7, such as Muslim leaders, security officers of malls, and managers of motels, inns, and pension houses, to thwart terrorism activity in the region. Elworthy and Rifkind (2006) indicated that an efficient initiative to prevent terrorism builds social, community, and/or intercultural cooperation. Therefore, emphasizing social inclusion and eliminating all forms of discrimination is necessary. These initiatives aim to achieve community cohesion, decrease social exclusion, and prevent radicalization. For example, regular dialogue with marginalized and disaffected groups, particularly young people, and performing risk assessments of communities to identify groups threatened by radicalization.

Simulation Exercises and Stakeholder Conferences. The PNP 7 Regional Intelligence Division conducts simulation exercises. The objective of the Counter Terrorism Inter-Agency SIMEX is to test each member agency on their response structure, promote preparedness, test existing policies and SOPs, and train personnel in performing the desired actions based on their functions. This is in connection with the fifth step of Bodrero (1999) processes necessary to combat local extremism, which focuses on the training stage, stressing the need to form response and emergency divisions, and focuses mostly on the functions, roles, and duties of various vital agencies. The Philippine National Police Regional office VII (PNPRO7) training initiatives include the Basic Internal Security Operation Course (BISOC), SWAT Course, and Explosion Ordinance Disposal (EOD). These initiatives are necessary to improve security against terrorists.

Moreover, the PNP VII Regional Intelligence Division has scheduled regular conferences, RID Family Conferences, and RPICC Conference. Topics discussed during these conferences include significant updates, monitoring of terrorist plans/movements, and other terrorism-related matters. Ronaldo Puno stated in an interview by BBC Monitoring Asia (2006) that preventing the occurrence of terrorism through information hardening rather than relying solely on the capability of police and military personnel can fight any threat. It is important to plan for an attack in ways that involve the people, work with the press, and recognize the competing demands on politicians.

Conclusion

Formulating anti-terrorism initiatives is an inherent duty and function of the Philippine National Police (PNP), as outlined in Executive Order No. 110 - Series of 1999, the Joint Implementing Rules and Regulations to EO 110 - Series of 1999, and RA 6975. In fulfilling this function, the PNP Regional office VII has proactively introduced initiatives to counter acts of terrorism in the entire region, thereby maintaining peace and order and increasing vigilance and public awareness, leading towards more participative governance in curbing the threat of terrorism.

The PNP Regional office VII has implemented several key initiatives, including the *'Police sa Barangay'* program, collaboration with CCTN T.V. channel for awareness programs, strengthened intelligence monitoring by the Regional Intelligence Division (RID), establishment of the Barangay Intelligence Network (BIN), regular threat assessments, provision of the Basic Internal Security Operation Course (BISOC) and SWAT Course, introduction of the Explosion Ordinance Disposal (EOD) program, and information dissemination efforts using foldable fans and posters in terminals. Additionally, the PNP 7 – RID has conducted meetings with stakeholders such as Muslim leaders, security officers of malls, and managers of motels, inns, and pension houses. They have also organized simulation exercises on counter-terrorism inter-agency and regular conferences (e.g., RID Family Conferences, RPICC Conference).

These initiatives have significantly contributed to the safety and order of the region, impacting its social, economic, and political aspects. As a result, there has been a decrease in recorded cases and instances of insurgency in the region compared to other parts of the Philippines. The PNPRO7, in collaboration with various local agencies, has also implemented antiterrorism-related management programs, approved ordinances, passed resolutions, and adopted preventive measures to maintain peace and order and protect the general welfare against the growing threat of terrorism.

Recommendations

For the enhancement of programs towards responsive governance, the following recommendations and courses of action are presented based on the findings:

i. The local government unit of Region 7 should conduct a stakeholders' analysis to uncover the constituency's needs, priority concerns, and satisfaction regarding safety and security measures. This will help formulate efficient and efficacious anti- and counter-terrorism initiatives in the future.

ii. The national government, especially policy-makers, should strengthen and encourage local government units and corresponding agencies to formulate anti-terrorism initiatives through the passage of laws and resolutions providing guidelines for such initiatives.

iii. The local government unit of Region 7 should conduct a multi-stakeholder mapping to develop a holistic preparedness plan. Vital stakeholders, concerned organizations, mandated offices, and agencies can participate with the local governments of the region to map possible alternatives and focal factors relevant to prevention and preparedness for the growing threat of terrorism.

iv. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMO) of the region lacks resources to craft anti-terrorism initiatives, even though it is mandated to do so. It is recommended that the PDRRMO be allocated additional funding to reinforce its preparedness plan other than its response plan against terrorism.

v. Since vigilance in united action is the first step to weaken the power of terrorism, it is recommended that Local Government Executives (LGEs) organize their own intelligence collectors and mandate the same for their respective subordinate LGUs for a wide range vigilance and possible assessment of questionable personalities.

vi. Preparedness is one way of mitigating damages and destruction, such as loss of lives and personnel. Thus, it is recommended to conduct rehearsals, drills, and dry runs in actual fields (e.g., schools, government offices, and private entities).

vii. To increase public involvement in government undertakings and operations, it is recommended to fortify community partnerships among LGUs. This will help prevent radicalization among citizens and achieve the aim of perpetual peace

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