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Republic of the Philippines
National Intelligence Board
National Intelligence Committee
REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE-4B (MIMAROPA)
Batangas City
E-mail: ro4b@nica.gov.ph

RIC-4B MESSAGE NOTICE
Nr 23B-022

TO: COL NEIL ALFONSO ROLDAN PA - U2, SOLCOM
PLTCOL ERWIN EMELO - ID, APC-SL
CDR MARK FRANCISCO PN - U2, WESCOM
PLTCOL ALLAN MACAPAGAL - RID, PRO-MIMAROPA
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Dir FERDINAND LAVIN - RD, NBI-MIMAROPA
Ms CAROLINA CONSTANTINO - DFA RFO-MIMAROPA
Mr ROBERT JONES - BI

FROM: DIR ARIEL T PERLADO MNSA
Chair, RIC-4B

SUBJECT: National Terrorism Threat Level Advisory for February 2023

DATE: 06 February 2023

DIR ARIEL T PERLADO MNSA
NICA-4B Regional Director
RIC-4B Chair



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SECRET

TERRORISM THREAT LEVEL FOR FEBRUARY 2023

The National Intelligence Committee's Standing Committee on Counterterrorism (StCom-CT) held its 67th Meeting on 27 January 2022, during which the following Terrorism Threat Level Assessment for February 2023 was approved and adopted:

HIGH (strong possibility of a terror attack within a short period of time hence requires implementation of at least Level 3 Security Measures)

AREAS		RATIONALE
Region 12		
▪ Cotabato Province		
-Pikit		Presence of DI-Turaifie elements with standing plans to conduct bombings targeting Philippine National Police (PNP) installations and National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) transmission lines, and to liquidate government assets/informants.
BARMM		
-Cotabato City		The recent plan of the DI-Hassan and Di-Turaifie groups to conduct bombings targeting security forces, businesses, religious sites, and public areas.
▪ Maguindanao del Norte		
-Datu Odin Sinsuat		The recent plans of the local terrorist groups (LTGs) in Central Mindanao to conduct atrocities.
▪ Maguindanao del Sur		
-Ampatuan		The recent plans of the LTGs in Central Mindanao to conduct atrocities.
-Datu Hoffer Ampatuan		
-Datu Piang		
-Datu Salibo		
-Datu Saudi Ampatuan		
-Datu Unsay		
-Guindulungan		
-Mamasapano		
-Shariff Aguak		
-Shariff Saydona Mustapha		

AREAS	RATIONALE
BARMM	
▪ Basilan	
– Lamitan City	Upscaled from MODERATE with Level 3 Security Measures to prevent any follow-up attacks in relation to the recent harassment of security forces by the Basilan-based DI-ASG elements.
– Sumisip	The persistent presence of Basilan-based DI-ASG elements with standing plans to harass government troops.
– Tipo-Tipo	Upscaled from MODERATE with Level 3 Security Measures to prevent the possibility of increased violence in relation to the recent harassment of security forces and series of encounters between security forces and the Basilan-based DI-ASG elements.
▪ Sulu	
– Jolo	The standing plan of Sulu-based DI-ASG to conduct suicide bombings.
– Patikul	The heavy presence of the Sulu-based ASG and DI-ASG in the area with standing plans against government forces thereat.

MODERATE (with the existence of monitored terror plans but are less likely to materialize due to the foreseen lack of capability of the LTGs to conduct the same)

AREAS	RATIONALE
National Capital Region	Recommended as a precautionary measure to prevent any terror attack in relation to the reported presence of LTG elements with standing plans to conduct atrocities in Metro Manila. Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.
Region 5	
▪ Sorsogon	
– Matnog Port	Downscaled from MODERATE with recommended Level 3 Security Measures due to the absence of updates on the longstanding information on the planned travel of LTGs from Mindanao to Luzon.

SECRET

AREAS	RATIONALE
Region 9	
– Zamboanga City	Downscaled from MODERATE with Level 3 Security Measures due to the absence of updates on the longstanding information on planned conduct of hostilities by the ASG in the city.
– Isabela City	To deter the execution of ASG standing plans as its members continue to be sighted in the city. Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.
Region 10	
– Cagayan de Oro City	To prevent any spillover of violence perpetrated by the DI-Maute Group from proximate Lanao provinces
▪ Lanao del Norte	
– Iligan City	The standing plan of the DI-Maute Group to conduct bombings in the area. Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.
– Bacolod	The standing plan of the DI-Maute Group to conduct bombings and ambushes targeting NGCP transmission lines, bridges, and government troops.
– Kauswagan	
– Kolambungan	
– Maigo	
– Linamon	The recent plan of the DI-Maute Group to conduct ambushes and bombings targeting security forces.
– Munai	The continuous presence of DI-Maute Group elements with plans to ambush security forces.
– Tangcal	The frequent sightings and presence of DI-Maute group elements with plans to harass and liquidate security forces, to include government assets and informants.

SECRET

SECRET

AREAS	RATIONALE
Region 12	
– General Santos City	<p>The standing plans of the BIFF and the DI-Turaifie Group to conduct bombings of places of convergence, including churches; liquidations of government troops; and other criminal activities against banks and remittance centers.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
▪ Cotabato Province	
– Kidapawan City	<p>The standing plans of the BIFF Group to conduct bombings of places of convergence, liquidations of government troops, and other criminal activities against banks and remittance centers.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– Aleosan	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF to conduct bombings targeting NGCP tower, churches, terminals, and public places.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– Carmen	<p>The reported presence of DI-Hassan Group elements with plans to conduct atrocities in retaliation to security operations.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– Kabacan	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF as well as the DI-Hassan and DI-Turaifie groups to conduct bombings targeting Yellow Bus Liner Inc. (YBLI) bus units and NGCP transmission lines.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– M'lang	<p>The standing plans of the DI-Hassan Group to conduct bombings, ambushes, harassments and other criminal activities targeting government troops and predominantly Christian crowds.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>

SECRET

SECRET

AREAS	RATIONALE
Region 12	
▪ Cotabato Province	
– Midsayap	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF, DI-Hassan, and DI-Turaifie groups to conduct bombings targeting churches, YBLI bus units and its terminals, and other places of convergence, as well as military detachments thereat.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– Pigcawayan	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF as well as the DI-Hassan and DI-Turaifie groups to conduct bombings targeting YBLI bus units.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
▪ South Cotabato	
– Koronadal City	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF to conduct bombings in the city, as well as the plan of an unidentified DI-affiliated group to conduct bombings in connection with the extortion plot against the YBLI.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– Polomolok	<p>The plan of the BIFF to conduct diversionary attacks in relation to its intent to conduct bombings in Koronadal City.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>
– Banga	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF to conduct diversionary attacks in relation to its intent to conduct bombings in Koronadal City.</p>
– Sto. Nino	
– Surallah	
– T'boli	
▪ Sultan Kudarat	
– Tacurong City	<p>The standing plan of the BIFF to conduct bombings in places of convergence; liquidation of government troops; and robbery/hold-up of banks and remittance centers. Also, the plan of the Al Khobar Group to attack YBLI bus units plying the area.</p> <p>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</p>

SECRET

SECRET

AREAS		RATIONALE
BARMM		
▪ Sultan Kudarat		
– Esperanza		The recent plan of the DI-Hassan and DI-Turaifie groups to conduct roadside attacks.
– Isulan		The recent plan of the BIFF to conduct atrocities targeting government and private contractor's properties, and harassment and roadside bombings along highways.
▪ Lanao del Sur		
– Marawi City		The standing plan of the DI-Maute group to conduct bombing in time for Friday prayers.
– Balabagan		Recommended as a precautionary measure to prevent any escalation of attacks due to the reported presence of about 100 armed men under an armed group in the area.
– Balindong		The persistent presence of the DI-Maute Group with standing plan to conduct ambushes and liquidations AFP and PNP intelligence operatives and informants in these areas.
– Butig		
– Lumbatan		
– Marogong		
– Pagayawan		
– Piagapo		
– Tubaran		The persistent presence of DI-Maute Group in the area with plans to attack AFP detachments.
▪ Maguindanao del Sur		
– General SK Pendatun		The persistent presence of BIFF elements with plans to harass Philippine Army detachments. <i>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</i>
– Rajah Buayan		The standing plans of the BIFF to conduct liquidations and ambushes targeting PNP personnel, to include the COP of the municipality. <i>Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.</i>

SECRET

SECRET

AREAS		RATIONALE	
BARMM			
• Maguindanao del Sur			
– South Upi		The recent plan of the BIFF to harass security forces, as well as the standing plan to conduct IED attacks targeting the Municipal Hall and the active liquidation threat on Mayor Reynalbert O. Insular . Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.	
– Sultan sa Barongis		Recommended as a precautionary measure to prevent any attacks against security forces thereat.	
– Talayan		The standing plan of the BIFF to conduct bombings, to include roadside bombing, targeting military convoys and patrolling government forces. Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.	
▪ Basilan			
– Al-Barka		The persistent presence of Basilan-based DI-ASG elements with hostile plan against security forces and its installations. Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.	
– Hadji Mohammad Ajul			
– Ungkaya Pukan			
▪ Sulu			
– Indanan		The continuous presence of Sulu-based ASG and DI-ASG in the area with standing plans to conduct atrocities thereat. Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended.	
– Talipao		The continuous presence of Sulu-based ASG and DI-ASG in the area with standing plans to conduct atrocities thereat.	

SECRET

SECRET

LOW (No significant terrorism-related activity monitored)

AREAS	RATIONALE
Cagayan Valley	Note: Level 2 Security Measures is recommended due to the standing threat posed by the Daesh's call for attacks in the Philippines.
Region 9	
▪ Zamboanga Sibugay	
– Tungawan	Note: Level 2 Security Measures is recommended due to persistent reports on the presence of ASG-affiliated elements in the area.
Region 12	
▪ Cotabato	
– Tulum	Note: Level 2 Security Measures is recommended due to the standing plan of the DI-Hassan Group to conduct retaliatory attacks against security forces and robbery holdup.
▪ Sultan Kudarat	
– Lambayong	Note: Level 2 Security Measures is recommended to deter any potential spillover attack from nearby municipalities.
– President Quirino	
BARMM	
▪ Maguindanao del Norte	
– Barira	Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended as a precautionary measure to prevent possible attack against government forces, particularly PNP personnel in Maguindanao Police Provincial Office.
– Buldon	
– Datu Blah Sinsuat	
– Kabuntalan	
– Matanog	
– Northern Kabuntalan	
– Parang	
– Sultan Kudarat	
– Sultan Mastura	
– Sultan Sumagka	
– Upi	

SECRET

AREAS		RATIONALE
▪ Maguindanao del Sur		Note: Level 3 Security Measures is recommended as a precautionary measure to prevent possible attack against government forces, particularly PNP personnel in the Maguindanao Police Provincial Office.
– Buluan		
– Datu Abdullah Sangki		
– Datu Anggal Midtimbang		
– Datu Montawal		
– Datu Paglas		
– Mangudadatu		
– Pagalungan		
– Paglat		
– Pandag		
▪ Basilan		Note: Level 2 Security Measures is recommended to prevent possible terrorist attack in relation to the persistent presence of LTG elements in these areas.
– Akbar		
– Lantawan		
– Maluso		
– Tuburan		
BARMM		
▪ Sulu		Note: Level 2 Security Measures is recommended due to the continuous presence of Sulu-based ASG and DI-ASG in these areas.
– Kalingalan Caluang		
– Maimbung		
– Omar		
– Parang		

The rest of the country was placed at **LOW** Terrorism Threat Level with **Level 1 Security Measures** due to the absence of information indicating terror threats.