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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 23A-018

TO:

Ms CAROLINA CONSTANTINO	- DFA RCO PPC
Dir RUBEN CARANDANG	- OCD-MIMAROPA
Dir KARL CAESAR R. RIMANDO, CESO III	- DILG-MIMAROPA
Atty HASSEN SHAUN OBSUM	- DOJ-4
RD FERDINAND LAVIN	- NBI-MIMAROPA
Mr ROBERT Q JONES	- BI
Dir GIL CESARIO CASTRO	- PDEA-MIMAROPA
Mr WINSTON BARQUEZ	- OTS, DoTr
Dir MANUEL BETAIZAR	- LTO-MIMAROPA
Dir AGUSTIN C MENDOZA	- NEDA-4B
Dir JOEL VALERA	- DTI-MIMAROPA
Dir ANGELITO SACRO	- CDA-MIMAROPA
Dir NICOLAS CAPULONG	- DEPED-MIMAROPA
Atty JOSELITO ALISUAG	- CHED-4B
Dir ANGELINA CARREON	- TESDA-4B
Dir NAOMI LYN ABELLANA	- DOLE-MIMAROPA
Dir LEONARDO REYNOSO	- DSWD-MIMAROPA
Dr MARIO BAQUILOD	- DOH-MIMAROPA
Dir ANTONIO GERUNDIO, CESO III	- DA RFO-4B
Dir ELIZER SALILIG	- BFAR-MIMAROPA
Atty MARVIN BERNAL	- DAR-MIMAROPA
Dir YOLANDA NAVARRO	- NFA-MIMAROPA
Engr WILLIAM RAGADON	- NIA-MIMAROPA
Engr GERALD PACANAN	- DPWH-MIMAROPA
Engr MAXIMO CABASAL	- NHA-MIMAROPA
Dir VICTORIA MENDOZA	- PIA-MIMAROPA
Dir LENI RIOFLORIDO	- PSA-MIMAROPA
Dir MARIE GRACE T PASCUA, DPA, CESO III	- NCIP-4B
Dir LORMELYN CLAUDIO	- DENR-MIMAROPA
Atty BEVIENNE MALATEO	- DOT-MIMAROPA
Dir MA JOSEFINA ABILAY	- DOST-MIMAROPA
Dir MARIA ANGELITA CELLS	- DBM-MIMAROPA
COL BENEDICTO J DE VERA PA (MNSA)	- U2, SOLCOM
PCOL ERWIN DAYAG	- CIDG RFU-4B
PCOL ROLANDO LAMPAD	- RMFB-4B
PCOL JOSEPH TALENTO	- RACU-MIMAROPA
CDR MARK FRANCISCO PN	- U2, WESCOM
CDR NOEL VIRREY PN	- MIG22, ISAFP
PLTCOL ERWIN M EMELO	- ID, APC-SL

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PLTCOL ALLAN MACAPAGAL
PLTCOL NEFTALY A DONATO
LTC MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ
PMAJ JINKIE TUGUIC
MAJ ALLAN DAQUIOAG
MAJ RYAN LACUESTA PN(M)
CDR CHRISTOPHER L MATAMMU PN
CPT BASIL JED GONZALES (MI) PA
CPT EDGAR ANTONIO PN(M)
LT GLEND DJ AVILA PN
1LT MANNY LIRAZAN PAF
LTSG MAR D TORITA
CG ENS ROSTUM ALIBAT

- RID, PRO-4B
- RIU-4B
- TOG-4, PAF
- 10th SAB, PNP-SAF
- 4th ISU, AIR
- MBLT3
- NAVFORWEST/NISG-WEST
- S2, 203BDE, 2ID, PA
- G2, 3MBDE
- NISG-SL
- 3012AISS, 300AISW, PAF
- CGIG-STL
- CGIG-PALAWAN

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

SUBJECT: Summary of Discussion and Decision Points
Joint RIC-4B 12th Regular Meeting and
ERIC-4B 4Q2022 Meeting (15 December 2022),
as approved on 25 January 2023

DATE 26 JANUARY 2023


DIR ARIEL T PERLADO MNSA
NICA-4B Regional Director
ERIC-4B Chair
 
RO4B-23A-018

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Republic of the Philippines
National Intelligence Board
National Intelligence Committee
REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE-4B (MIMAROPA)

Joint RIC-4B 12th Regular Meeting and
ERIC-4B 4th Quarter 2022 Meeting
Zoom VTC | 151300H December 2022

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND DECISION POINTS

On 151300H December 2022, the NICA-4B led the Joint RIC-4B 12th Regular Meeting and ERIC-4B 4th Quarter 2022 Meeting via Zoom VTC. RD-4B **Ariel Perlado**, as the chair of the RIC/ERIC-4B, presided over the said meeting, assisted by DRD **Mariacita Santos**.

The agenda of the meeting were as follows:

- Plans and Activities of the CTG for the CPP's 54th Founding Anniversary, and Update on the Preparation for the Application for Proscription of ROC, STRPC;
- Yearend Peace and Order Situation in MIMAROPA;
- Update on the Developments in the WPS vis-à-vis Visit of US Vice President **Kamila Haris** on 22 November 2022; and
- Update on the Declaration of Palawan as Insurgency-Free.

I. Attendance

The meeting was virtually attended by 44 members and representatives from the member-agencies of the RIC/ERIC-4B and the NICA-4B, as follows:

RIC-4B MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. O/U2, WESCOM | CDR MARK FRANCISCO PN |
| 2. MIG22, ISAFP | TSgt Ronie Cabaltera PA |
| 3. 203 RD BDE, 2ID PA | Sgt Christopher Anthony Ayon (MI) PA |
| 4. 301 st , SMG, 300AISW | A2C Mark Anthony Ola PAF |
| 5. O/NF2, NAVFORWEST | CPT CASIPLE PN(M) |
| 6. NISG-WEST | CA John Cayabo |
| 7. NISU-34 | PO3 Roldan June Macaraig PN |
| 8. O/G2, 3MBDE | TSgt Lamberto Angel Jr PN |
| 9. MBLT3 | SSgt Michel Descargar PN(M) |
| 10. ID, APC-SL | PLTCOL RAMIL BERGADO |
| 11. RID, PRO-MIMAROPA | PMAJ MAC ERLANO |
| 12. RIU-4B PIT Palawan | PLTCOL NEFTALY DONATO |
| | PAT Danica Sabado |

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37	13.	RMFB-4B	PCOL ROLANDO C LAMPAD
38	14.	RACU-MIMAROPA	PLT CHRISTIAN NOLAN LUZON
39	15.	CIDG RFU-4B	PMAJ MANRICO ACORDA
40	16.	10 th SAB, PNP-SAF	PMAJ JINKIE TUGUIC
41			PMAJ JING ALARCON
42	17.	CGIG-STL	CG ENS JOHN KEVIN C YU
43			CG SN2 Ryan Christian D Alday
44	18.	CGIG-PALAWAN	CG LTJG BERNARD ROY BANTAYA
45			CG SW2 Jaleel Shaira Banzuela
46	19.	PDEA MIMAROPA	Agent ROBERT LEE MASLIAN
47	20.	BI	Agent ROBERT JONES
48	21.	OTS	Mr WINSTON BARQUEZ
49			

ERIC-4B Members

51			
52	22.	OCD-MIMAROPA	Dir RUBEN L CARANDANG
53	23.	DILG-MIMAROPA	Ms Myla Panganiban
54	24.	LTO-MIMAROPA	RD MANUEL BETAIZAR
55			Ms Mewish De Castro
56			Mr Jorge Antonio Calayo
57	25.	NEDA-4B	Ms Sheryl Sarabia
58			Ms Belti Garcia
59	26.	CDA-MIMAROPA	CDA Abet Sabarias
60	27.	DA RFO-4B	Mr Nex Basi
61			Ms Jzy Delos Reyes
62	28.	BFAR-MIMAROPA	Mr Alfonso Dela Torre
63	29.	DAR-MIMAROPA	Ms Josefina Lopez
64	30.	DPWH-MIMAROPA	Atty Elaine Anza
65	31.	NHA-MIMAROPA	Mr Hermie Latoza
66	32.	PSA-MIMAROPA	Mr Oscar Gatpandan
67	33.	NCIP-4B	Ms Jazen Victoriano
68	34.	NICA-4B	Palawan PSO Chief Shulan Primavera
69			Actg ARD-Ops Jonathan Bejemil
70			Actg ARD-CI Pablo Ballares Jr
71			

RIC-4B Secretariat (NICA-4B)

72			
73			
74	1.	Ms MARIA CRISTINA ROCILLO	
75	2.	Mr GIOVANNI MANAHAN	
76	3.	Ms MARY JOY AMORANTO	
77			

II. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Having a quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order.

For the welcome remarks, DRD **Santos** welcomed the attendees in the Joint RIC-4B 12th Regular Meeting and ERIC-4B 4th Quarter 2022 Meeting. She provided a brief background on the agenda of the meeting, namely, plans and activities of the CTG for the CPP's 54th founding anniversary and update on the preparation for the application for proscription of the

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87 Regional Operational Command (ROC), STRPC; the year-end peace and
88 order situation in the region; prospects of food security in the region; and
89 updates in the WPS and declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free.

90
91 **III. Review of the SDDP and Actionable Items of the Eleventh RIC-4B**
92 **Regular Meeting on 24 November 2022 and Joint ERIC-4B and**
93 **MIMAROPA RTF-ELCAC TWG/SAKM Cluster 3rd Quarter 2022 Meeting**
94 **held on 21 September 2022**
95

96 The Body reviewed the Summary of Discussion and Decision Points
97 (SDDP) of the RIC-4B 11th Regular Meeting held on 21 November 2022 and
98 the Joint ERIC-4B and MIMAROPA RTF-ELCAC TWG/SAKM Cluster 3rd Quarter
99 2022 Meeting held on 21 September 2022, which was approved and
100 adopted after a motion that duly seconded.

101
102 Upon the approval of the SDDP, the actionable items of the two
103 meetings were presented and discussed.

104
105 On the declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free, the Chair shared
106 that the NICA-4B already submitted a motion for the declaration of
107 Palawan as insurgency-free during the Joint PPOC, PTF-ELCAC and PADAC
108 meeting on 02 December 2022. Said motion was based on the clearances
109 provided by the WESCOM and 3MBDE from the consolidated data of the
110 AFP and PNP, alongside the recommendations in the consultation meeting
111 of the RTF-ELCAC MIMAROPA, and the NICA-4B assessment. He asserted
112 that these clearances reinforced the motion. Moreso, he emphasized that
113 the declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free would be the most
114 significant accomplishment of RTF-MIMAROPA, citing that this will give
115 opportunity to enjoy peace and enhance development in the province,
116 and would give the security sector the opportunity to focus military
117 operation to Mindoro Island. He added that the NICA-4B and the 3MBDE
118 prepared the draft resolution as requested by the Palawan POC to be
119 forwarded to the Palawan government for adoption that will serve as the
120 fortitude in the declaration of the province as insurgency-free. He
121 encouraged the Body to exert effort to make the activity a huge event that
122 will be attended by national figures and media to cover the event.

123
124 On the update on the case filed against **Teresita Alcantara @Jam**,
125 the Chair advised that the commitment of the NICA to provide legal
126 assistance is still ongoing. The legal department of the agency is scheduled
127 to meet with **Justin Kate Raca** for the review of her judicial affidavit for the
128 case filed against **Alcantara**. He added that the issue on the dismissal of the
129 case is scheduled to be discussed with the PNP. He advised that the topic
130 will be discussed in the other matters agenda of the meeting.

131
132 On the issuance of monthly terrorism threat level in MIMAROPA, the
133 Chair opined that this is more applicable in Mindanao since it concerns

extremism and not the CTG. He then advised that an example of terrorism threat level will be presented later in the agenda item that could be used as basis to come up with the threat level assessment in the region.

Afterwhich, the actionable item in Joint ERIC-4B and MIMAROPA RTF-ELCAC TWG/SAKM Cluster 3rd Quarter 2022 Meeting was presented.

On the counter-CTG organizing, it was agreed that the Regional SAKM cluster will consolidate the best practices/success indicators of the MIMAROPA RTF-ELCAC to be submitted to the NTF-ELCAC. However, there are other clusters that have yet to submit their inputs. The Chair then explained the requirements of the NTF-ELCAC on the submission of the annual accomplishment report. He emphasized that the actionable item is still a work progress that needs to be settled together with the RTF Cluster heads.

IV. Highlights of the Meeting/Discussions

Plans and Activities of the CTG for the CPP's 54th Founding Anniversary, and Update on the Preparation for the Application for Proscription of ROC, STRPC

ARD **Bejemil** presented the plans and activities of the CTG in relation to the CPP's 54th founding anniversary on 26 December 2022, as follows:

- On 25 December 2022, CTG front groups in the "human rights" sector plan to hold a Christmas Party celebration with the detained CTG personalities at the SICCA in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City. Among the groups who will participate in the event are KARAPATAN, KAPATID and Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA). Said celebration will also mark the CPP's anniversary.
- CTG personalities reportedly plan to participate in the CPP anniversary celebration to be held in Oriental Mindoro in a still unspecified date and venue. Identified personalities who are expected to participate in said celebration are **Roneo Clamor**, **Bernard Zamora**, **Darlene Yohanan**, **Rose Bacara** and **Veronica Villamor @ Ronie**, all from KARAPATAN; **Len Olea**, writer at bulatlat.com; and **Amanda Verdadero @ Mai**, **Elisha Campos @ Eli** and **Danica De Jesus**, all from the National Youth and Student Bureau of the CPP's National Organizing Department.

For the assessment, an information received stated that a plenum, most likely at the regional level, will be held in Mindoro. Moreso, a tactical offensive will reportedly be launched in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, which is highly likely related to the planned plenum as a diversionary tactic to lead

the government forces away from the venue of the supposed CPP anniversary celebration. Further, there is a likelihood that the celebration-cum-plenum will be held in the northwestern part of Occidental Mindoro where the weakened Komiteng Larangang Gerilya (KLG)-ICM used to operate.

On the update on the preparation for application for proscription of ROC, STRPC, ARD **Bejemil** reported that during an interview with detained NPA leader **Chito Mendoza Huligaña @ Miguel/Ogos**, the latter disclosed that sometime in 1983, he was assigned in Pampanga and later reassigned in Laguna to conduct arouse-organize-mobilize (AOM) works and build NPA base thereat. He added that he travelled from Bulacan to the foot of Mt Banahaw in Bgy Mamala, Sariaya, Quezon, where he met the late Armando Teng from the Politburo and **Nilo Dela Cruz** to establish a district committee in the area. Moreover, it was also learned that **Huligaña** was the security of the "Operations Missing Link" (OPML) under then secretary of STRPC, **Mel Lurenaria**. He also revealed that he met the **Tiamzon** couple in San Jose de Bauan, Samar.

For the ways forward, ARD **Bejemil** said the preparation of the judicial affidavit of **Huligaña** is currently being undertaken in coordination with the Office of the Prosecutor and legal counsel to facilitate the release of **Huligaña**. Other detained CTG members who are also scheduled for interview/debrief are **Jaime Padilla @ Diego** in Occidental Mindoro, **Teresita Alcantara @ Jam** in Oriental Mindoro, and the four arrested personality in Romblon. He also emphasized the need for testimonies by FRs who have personal knowledge of the ROC and executive committee (EXECOM) of the STRPC, as well as pieces of evidence such as the history of the ROC and atrocities planned/launched by ROC.

The Chair asked if there are members of the Body who would like to share information on the plans of the CTG to mark the CPP anniversary. Sgt **Ayon** of the 203BDE, shared that around 30 CNTs were monitored in the boundary of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro and Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro, which could be connected to the planned tactical offensive of the CPP-NPA terrorists presented by ARD **Bejemil**. The Chair said that according to gathered information, the CTG will consolidate its forces in Mindoro for a planned tactical offensive with SPARU operations. He asked the representative from the 203BDE for a comment on the planned SPARU operations in Mindoro. Sgt **Ayon** replied that as of time, there are no monitored SPARU operations in their AOR.

PMAJ **Mac Erlano** from the RID-4B cited that it is assessed that among the probable targets in the planned atrocities are the RCSP teams deployed in various areas in Mindoro. He added that RID-4B have released guidelines to all concerned PNP units immersed in the province to give heavy considerations on security.

228 The Chair agreed to the representative from RID-4B saying that those
229 PNP unit deployed for immersion since October are vulnerable against the
230 CTG. He added that although the concerned PNP units are properly guided,
231 the strength of the CNTs who will launch the tactical offensive could not be
232 determined. He stressed that a successful launching of tactical offensives in
233 Mindoro would mean that the red area in the island is strong.

234
235 PLtCol **Neftaly A Donato**, Chief of RIU-4B, shared that they have
236 received information on the planned SPARU operation of the CNTs in the
237 area of Socorro, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong, Roxas,
238 Mansalay and Bulalacao, all of Oriental Mindoro, and in Magsaysay in
239 Occidental Mindoro targeting AFP and PNP personnel. He added that the
240 SPARU members are now in these areas just waiting for an opportune time.
241 PLtCol **Donato** also shared the presence of armed rebels in the boundary
242 of San Teodoro and Puerto Galera, both of Oriental Mindoro, with unknown
243 plan. He said that continuous monitoring is being conducted by the RIU-4B
244 with the assistance of FRs in the said areas.

245
246 The Chair stated that NICA-4B could provide technical assistance to
247 the AFP and PNP units if they have cellphone numbers of target CNT
248 personalities, especially if they are in the process of zeroing the target.

249
250 On the proscription of ROC, STRPC, the Chair sought the assistance of
251 the RIC-4B members in the proscription of ROC, STRPC. He explained that if
252 the ROC would be proscribed as a terrorist group, it would be easier for the
253 government forces to arrest them as long they will be proved as members
254 of the STRPC. He added that they focus their effort against the ROC, which
255 is also the armed component of the STRPC. The Chair explained that
256 majority of the FRs in MIMAROPA have no direct access to the EXECOM of
257 STRPC nor to the sub-regional military areas (SRMA) in Mindoro and Palawan.
258 The Chair said that since most of the FRs came from the CNT, they may be
259 used against the ROC of the STRPC. He then called for the assistance of the
260 AFP and PNP to lend their FRs who can testify against the ROC, provided
261 that these FRs should have a personal knowledge about the ROC and its
262 atrocities committed, including those FRs who are involved in the ROC's
263 atrocities in the region to be utilized as witnesses against the ROC.

264
265 PMAJ **Manrico Acorda** from CIDG RFU-4B said that FRs who will be
266 utilized as witnesses are undergoing documentation. The Chair said that
267 these will be a very good opportunity to determine the atrocities committed
268 by the ROC such as arson, ambushade and liquidation, to be included in
269 the proscription. MAJ **Acorda** commented that they should be provided
270 with the After Custodial Debriefing Rerort (ACDR) of all FRs to be included
271 in their case build-up. The Chair agreed to the comment of MAJ **Acorda**
272 and explained that ACDR of the FRs are very valuable in the investigation
273 being conducted by the CIDG. He also said that there are four witnesses
274 that will be used as primary witnesses and whoever FRs these witnesses may

be mentioned could become material witnesses and will also be utilized as witnesses in the proscription case. Hence, he encouraged the cooperation of the AFP and PNP, especially those who have custody of several FRs..

Yearend Peace and Order Situation in MIMAROPA

PMAJ **Erlano** of RID-4B presented the prevailing peace and order situation in MIMAROPA. He reported that for the period 01 January to 12 December 2022, a total of 4,701 crime incidents transpired in the region. This figure is 281 or 5.64 percent lower compared with the 4,982 crime incidents during the previous year. Of the total crime incidents, 771 are eight focus crimes—theft, physical injury, rape, robbery, murder, homicide, motorcycle theft, and vehicle theft—broken down into rape with 64; followed by theft with 15; murder with 14; physical injury with 13; robbery with 11; motornapping with nine; carnapping with five; and homicide with one. This figure also decreased by 62 or 7.44 percent compared with the 833-focus crime committed recorded during the same period last year.

The 4,701 crime incidents recorded an Average Monthly Crime Rate (AMCR) of 8.73, which is lower by 1.20 compared with the 9.94 AMCR recorded last year. Moreso, of the total incidents recorded, PRO-MIMAROPA have solved 2,330, representing a Crime Solution Efficiency Rating (CSER) of 69.71 percent. This CSER, however, is lower by 7.99 compared with the 77.70 percent CSER recorded during the same period last year.

On internal security operations, MAJ **Erlano** informed the body that Oriental Mindoro was elevated by the Directorate for Intelligence, PNP to "Threat Level 3" due to the plan of SRMA-4D to launch a tactical offensive in the province as its resentment for the absence of peace talks and suspension of military operations/suspension of police operations (SOMO/SOPO) declared by the government this coming yuletide season.

For the assessment, MAJ **Erlano** said that the peace and order in the region remains manageable. The decrease in crime statistics us attributed to the intensified law enforcement operations, implementation of local ordinances, and maximum deployment of PNP personnel on the streets.

On insurgency, the situation in the region is peaceful and manageable. However, the conduct of simultaneous mass movement/street protest, liquidation, harassment, sabotage of vital installation and other forms of terroristic activities to show the CTG's existence as well as to intensify their extortion activities in order to support their usual activities cannot be discounted. Nevertheless, the PRO-MIMAROPA continuously intensifies its information gathering and intelligence monitoring in coordination with intelligence counterparts from the AFP, force multipliers, and other stakeholders with regard to the

plans/activities of threat groups relative to the upcoming 54th founding anniversary of the CPP.

The Chair said that based on the presentation, the PNP units are doing its share in the operations against the CTG. He said that aside from the presence of the KLG in the province, there are also monitored collectives from the CTG urban operations working in the white area. However, despite their existence, there are no monitored protest actions conducted in the island during "red letter days" such as the Bonifacio Day on 30 November and International Human Rights Day on 10 December, as compared with other provinces.

The Chair then asked representatives from the AFP and PNP on their insights on this development. Sgt **Ayon** said that based from their FRs who were former CTG urban operators, the urban operations in the province has been inactive since 2021 due to the continuous operations of the AFP. He said that this is the reason why members of the Quick Reaction Team (QRT) in the province came from CALABARZON area because QRT members in Mindoro are inactive while others were already co-opted by the government. The Chair raised that for a red area to survive, there should be urban operations cells that provides support to it.

Update on the Developments in the WPS vis-à-vis Visit of US Vice President Kamila Haris on 22 November 2022

CDR **Mark Francisco**, U2, WESCOM, presented the update in the West Philippine Sea (WPS). He reported that from 01 November to 11 December 2022, a total of 352 vessels were monitored in the WPS. Of the total, 201 were Chinese vessels, 89 were Vietnamese, 57 were Filipino vessels, and five were other foreign vessels. On the disposition of Chinese Coast Guard vessels (CCGVs), 10 CCGVs were noted in the WPS. Of which, CCG 5204, 5203 and 5202 were noted near the vicinity of Pag-Asa Island; CCG 5305, 5205, 3305 and 4110 were noted in the vicinity of the Ayungin Shoal; CCG 5204 was noted near Likas Island; CCG 5203 was noted near the Kota Island; and one CCG with unidentified bow number was noted near Panata Cay.

In same period, 50 radio challenges from China were received during ISR flights of the PAF in the area. These radio challenges were noted in the areas of Ayungin Shoal, Sabina Shoal, Panganiban Reef, Chigua Reef, Burgos Reef, Zamora Reef, Pag-Asa Island, Kagitingan Reef, and Julian Felipe Reef. Likewise, nine flare warnings from the Chinese were noted in the areas of Johnson, Chigua and Gaven Reefs.

Meanwhile, following are the monitored significant incidents in the WPS:

- on 06 November 2022, fishermen spotted and retrieved Chinese rocket debris in the waters of Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro;
- on 07 November 2022, another rocket debris was also sighted by fishermen in the vicinity seawaters of Busuanga, Palawan;
- on 20 November 2022, a fisherman reported the presence a rocket debris off the coast of Pag-asa Island; however, before the debris was retrieved by the government forces, elements of CCG 5203 have retrieved and towed the reported rocket debris;
- on 08 November 2022, the crew of Filipino fishing boats (FFBs) *Big Boy Jr* and *Princess 4* were harassed by CCG 5205 through a blocking maneuver and blowing of horn near the vicinity of Ayungin Shoal on 08 November 2022; and
- on 23 November 2022, BRP *Gregorio Del Pilar* was shadowed by CCG 5205 while the BRP was traversing to Ayungin Shoal.

For the assessment, CDR **Francisco** said that the Chinese and Vietnamese vessels were monitored near all the Philippine-held stations in the WPS. The proximity of the anchorage areas enables China to deploy and withdraw their surface assets. Moreover, the Chinese fishing vessels in Chinese-held features reinforce the notion that these artificial islands are being utilized as resupply and rest area for its military and gray zone operations. Further, the continuous firing of flare warning signals during ISR flights are part of China's exercise of jurisdiction over the area, while the shadowing of CCG 5205 of BRP *Gregorio Del Pilar* is to impose authority over the area. The recovered Chinese rocket debris shows that WPS and internal waters of the Philippines is evidently under the flight plan of Chinese rockets.

The Chair asked if how often the CCGVs shadow Philippine Navy (PN) vessels in the WPS. CDR **Francisco** said that every time the PN vessels enters the 12 nautical miles (nmi) range from the Ayungin Shoal, the CCGV starts to move near the PN vessels.

The Chair explained that the reason why this briefing was presented is due to the numerous harassment incidents occurring in the WPS prior to the visit of US Vice President **Kamala Harris** in the country, especially in Palawan. He also asked CDR **Francisco** if there are changes in the deployment of the Chinese vessel in the WPS after the visit of VP **Harris**. CDR **Francisco** replied that after the visit of VP Harris in the country, there is an increase in the number of Chinese maritime militia vessels (CMMVs) near the vicinity of Pag-Asa Island. He added that based from news, China is getting closer to mainland Palawan due to the presence of CMMVs in the

Sabina Shoal, which is 78 nmi from mainland Palawan, and Iroquis Reef, which is 138 nmi, from said province. Further, he stated that based on the ISR flights conducted by PAF and the BFAR, the presence of CMMVs are becoming permanent in the Sabina Shoal with an average of 25 to 30 CMMVs, and in Iroquis Reef with an average of 15 to 20 CMMV.

The Chair asked CDR **Francisco** if the activities of the CMMVs in the said areas are either fishing, passing vessel, or staying in the said areas. CDR **Francisco** said based on the provided information, the CMMVs are staying in the area closed to each other with no fishing activities monitored, which is in line with China's strategy to prevent the Philippine fishermen from utilizing said areas. The Chair asked if they have consulted this issue with the DFA for a diplomatic action. CDR **Francisco** replied that for each ISR conducted by WESCOM, they send a letter to NTF-WPS, which is forwarded to the DFA. The DFA, for its part, use the information in filing diplomatic protests.

For his part, Mr **Alfonso Dela Torre** of BFAR-MIMAROPA said that the BFAR-Palawan is continuously conducting law enforcement activities within the waters of Palawan in coordination with concerned government units such as WESCOM. The Chair asked if BFAR-MIMAROPA also accompanied Filipino fisherfolks fishing off the waters of the WPS. Mr **Dela Torre** said that as support to the country's fisherfolks, BFAR has also provided livelihood program to these fisherfolks.

The Chair shared to the body the result of consultation with fisherfolks stating that the fisherfolks could go to the KIG to fish and perform other functions such as support to law enforcement in the area. However, they stressed that without escorts from the Philippine government, they will be forced to leave the area if they will be harassed by foreign vessels, adding to their disappointment is the absence of fish that they should have caught in the KIG. The Chair said that what the fisherfolks is requesting is that they be accompanied by a Philippine government vessel in the area. He then asked BFAR-MIMAROPA if it is possible to accompany the fisherfolks by a Philippine Government vessel in the KIG. Mr **Dela Torre** said that in the issue of escorting fisherfolks in the WPS, he will relay said concern to the BFAR-National since the latter also has plan similar to the said issue. On the part of BFAR-MIMAROPA, he said that continuous coordination with PCG and WESCOM is being conducted, and with this kind of activities, BFAR-MIMAROPA is always ready to provide its support.

Update on the Declaration of Palawan as Insurgency-Free

CDR **Francisco** updated the body on WESCOM's efforts to dismantle the SRMA-4E, as follows:

- on 21 September 2022, JAPIC-Province recommended the dismantling of SRMA-4E;
- on 23 November 2022, the Area Clearing Evaluation Team (ACET) was conducted, and declared SRMA-4E “dismantled” in the province of Palawan;
- on 06 December 2022, ACET was conducted and declared SRMA-4E “dismantled” in Puerto Princesa City;
- on 12 December 2022, ACET result by the 3MBDE was presented to U3, WESCOM; and
- on 16 December 2022, similar result was set to be presented to the Area Clearing Validation Board (ACEB) for its approval.

The Chair said that he is not sure if Palawan has officially been declared as an insurgency-free province since he is not present during the 02 December 2022 PPOC meeting, but he sent his motion in a form of a letter, which was read by his representative in Palawan. The Chair also clarified that his motion is for the Council to consider deliberating the declaration. The Chair added that technically, Palawan has not yet been declared an insurgency-free province. As agreed during the meeting, the PPOC Secretariat will draft a Resolution declaring Palawan as an insurgency-free province, with the assistance of the NICA-4B and the 3MBDE.

The Chair presented to the body the draft resolution for the declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free prepared by the NICA-4B and 3MBDE, which will be submitted to the PPOC Secretariat for their reference in the preparation of the official Resolution. Sgt **Angel** of the 3MBDE said that their inputs to the draft resolution was in collaboration with the NICA-4B Palawan PSO. He added that as per instruction of CPT **Edgar Antonio**, G2, 3MBDE, any revision to the draft Resolution by the NICA-4B will be accepted by the 3MBDE. The Chair said that he will provide a copy of the draft resolution to the RIC-4B members for comment.

V. Other Matters

For the other matters, Mr **Giovanni Manahan** from the RIC-4B Secretariat discussed the terrorism threat level (TTL), starting on the parameters in determining the threat level in a particular area as follows:

- TTL is declared “low” if there are no monitored intent and capability of the terrorist group, and no information suggesting an imminent terror attack;

- TTL is declared “moderate” if there is a monitored intent of the terrorist group but without capability, and there is a credible information of a possible terror attack but unlikely;
- TTL is declared “high” if there is a monitored and validated intent of the terrorist group with capability, and with a credible information suggesting strong possibility of terror attack in a short period of time; and
- TTL is declared “extreme” if there is an evident intent and capability of the terrorist group, and an attack have been occurred, or pre-empted and follow-up attack is expected.

Based on the parameters, the Secretariat proposed the TTL in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon to be “low” with Level 1 Security Measures, while the TTL in Palawan to be “ow” but with Level 2 Security Measures due to the geographic location of Palawan, which is near ZAMBAZULTA complex and Malaysia.

Mr **Manahan** explained that only jihadist terrorism is considered in determining the TTL and does not consider the CTG yet. However, he emphasized that the National Intelligence Committee, through its Standing Committee on Counterterrorism, is currently reviewing the inclusion of the CTG in the parameters. He said that if these will be approved and implemented, there will be changes on the threat level in every province in the region.

During the deliberations, the body agreed to recommend “LOW” TTL with Level 1 Security Measures in all five provinces in MIMAROPA for January 2023.

VI. Decision Points and Actionable Items

The decision points during the meeting are as follows:

1. On the preparation for the application for proscription of ROC, STRPC, for the RIC-4B to continue efforts to identify FRs who can testify in the proscription case
2. On the Yearend Peace and Order Situation in MIMAROPA, for the RID, PRO-MIMAROPA to provide data on road crashes in 2022 by month and by province to the LTO-MIMAROPA to be sent to Itomimaropaoperationsdivision@gmail.com
3. On the declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free, it was clarified that Palawan POC and PTF-ELCAC, during the

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meeting on 2 December 2022, agreed to issue a resolution for the declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free; the secretariat will provide a copy of the draft resolution to RIC-4B members for comments

4. On the TTL in MIMAROPA, for the RIC-4B to recommend to CTIC/StCom-CT "LOW" terrorism threat level with Level 1 security measures for the five provinces in the region
5. On the submission accomplishment report of the MIMAROPA RTF-ELCAC, for the secretariat to provide MIMAROPA RTF-ELCAC cluster heads with a copy of the requirement of the NTF-ELCAC secretariat re submission of accomplishment report for 2022

VII. Adjournment

In the last part of the meeting, the Chair recalled on the progress from the previous meetings conducted from the very first for this year up to the year-end RIC/ERIC-4B meeting, and expressed that the accomplishments of agenda items in every conference are through the steady coordination, cooperation and contribution of each and everyone in the group. He then reminded the Body to utilize the mechanism and platform being presented in the RIC in achieving common objectives/goals. He added that the extended support of the counterparts is a big factor in the success of every activity and projects of the RIC-4B.

Finally, the Chair voiced his appreciation and hopes that in the coming year after the declaration of Palawan as insurgency-free, Mindoro would be next in line. The meeting ended with the Chair greeting everyone happy holidays.

Following the closing remarks of RD **Perlado**, the meeting adjourned at 1610H of the same day.


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