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Areas covered: Bangsamoro Region

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SUMMARY

The Bangsamoro region is undergoing heightened election preparations and security measures three days before the first Parliamentary election. Military have been deployed in various areas across the region, including key boundary sites. Checkpoints have been intensified, and armored vehicles and military trucks are being positioned around polling areas.

The final testing and sealing of Automated Counting Machines (ACM) were conducted by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in various voting centers across the region. Election materials have been distributed to the polling precincts, including Starlink devices to ensure uninterrupted connectivity on election day. Meanwhile, over 800 teachers withdrew as electoral board members in Maguindanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Special Geographic Areas, and Lanao del Sur.

On the eve of election day, Cotabato City was placed under Comelec control after two separate firefights erupted in Brgy. Bagua 2 and Brgy. Rosary Heights X allegedly involving supporters of BFP and UBJP. Two separate grenade explosions ripped through Brgy. Mother Kalanganan and Brgy. Rosary Heights in Cotabato City.

On the opening of the polling precincts, gunshots rang in Cotabato City Central Pilot School. Other polling precincts opened late due to the late arrival of the BEIs.

In Shariff Saydona Mustapha, tensions erupted between supporters of the BFP and UBJP during the final testing and sealing. Shooting incidents were reported in Shariff Aguak, Rajah Buayan, and in Datu Piang in Maguindanao del Sur and in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. In Lamitan City, a businessman, who is also the son-in-law of a candidate in the BARMM election, was injured in a shooting incident. Threats of violent extremism also persisted such as when two minors who allegedly have links to the BIFF and DI were wounded and eventually arrested when they exchanged fire with policemen who were conducting inspections at a COMELEC checkpoint in Brgy. Poblacion II, Shariff Aguak.

Reports of vote-buying also continued across municipalities in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, with amounts ranging from Php1,000 to Php5,000. ●

