

Quezon City police stage simulation exercise

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To raise the public's awareness on security preparedness, the **Quezon City Police District (QCPD)** yesterday conducted a simulation exercise on anti-terrorism and crisis management in one of the city's busy commercial complexes.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_phau

QUEZON City police conduct a simulation exercise at a busy shopping complex as part of its anti-terrorism crisis management exercises

QCPD director P/Brig. Gen. Danilo Macerin said the exercise helps determine the preparedness of the police force for any eventuality that may affect their area of jurisdiction.

“Just as we have been conducting simulation exercises for earthquakes and other calamities, we are also doing anti-terrorism and crisis management drills, not only to determine how well we are prepared to respond, but also to help condition our minds in what to do when confronted with such situations,” Macerin said.

During the exercise, an unidentified man, who posed as a customer, walked into a food park inside Araneta Center at around 9 a.m. He placed the paper bag he was carrying, containing an improvised explosive device (IED), leaving it in a garbage bin.

At around 10 a.m., a loud explosion was heard.

Security guards on duty immediately called the assistance of the Police Station 7 Tactical Motorized Rider Unit, who was on motorcycle patrol.

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Later on, the incident was reported to QCPD. Its command center alerted other disaster response units, such as the Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and Quezon City Red Cross, as well as K9 units and personnel of the QCPD District Mobile Force Battalion Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit were quickly dispatched.

After confirming the presence of IED, bomb experts conducted Render Safe Procedures (RSP), which included the successful onsite detonation using an RMI-9XD robot, which is designed for remote handling and RSP of IED and other explosive ordnance, reconnaissance missions, two-way communication and deliver/retrieval tasks.

Macerin reiterated the public's safety should be the main concern of the security force of every establishment.

"It is therefore important that they should know what to do when confronted with situations, just like what happened in the bombing at the Jolo Cathedral in Sulu last year where 20 people were killed and hundreds were left injured, including military and police personnel," Macerin explained.

"The importance of giving them regular trainings is to keep them aware and alert by holding drills and simulation exercises. Security personnel should get utmost training and they should be capable of responding and reacting to any eventuality when the need arises," he added.