DND: Papal Security Successful Due To Public Support

The overall security during the visit of Pope Francis from January 15-19, 2015 was successful mainly due to the ‘overwhelming’ support of the Filipino people.

This was revealed by Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, a day after the Pope left the country for the Vatican.

“The successful visit of Pope Francis to the Philippines was made possible by the overwhelming support and cooperation of the Filipino public,” Sec. Gazmin said.

The Department of National Defense maximized all of its available resources and assets in connection with the security arrangements for the Papal visit. Some 14,000 AFP personnel, both from the active service and reserve force, helped secure the Pope during his five-day visit.

“But the ultimate credit should go to the Filipino people, whose overwhelming support, patience and understanding for the security measures resulted in a safe and memorable Papal visit,” Gazmin said.

Secretary Gazmin added that deploying the DND’s latest hardware and trained personnel merely formed part of the entire effort.

“The maturity and decorum of our people during all five days of the event is a shining example of what the term ‘Bayanihan’ is all about,” Gazmin concluded.

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