

Police Regional Office-9 Director Chief Supt. Edgar O. Basbas has called on the people of Zamboanga Peninsula to be always alert and vigilant against lawless elements who are out to terrorize and sow fear through kidnappings and similar atrocities that tend to disturb the tranquility of the region.

Gen. Basbas made the call in the wake of the kidnapping of Korean businessman Li Pei Zhei in Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay on September 11 which has raised concerns on the region's security and safety.

Basbas appealed to all stakeholders to provide authorities with information on suspicious persons in their neighborhood.

He said the active participation of the people in security matters will greatly help law enforcement agencies combat lawlessness and achieve crime prevention.

"Ginagawa naming ang lahat na aming makakaya para ma-rescue ang biktima in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Naka full alert ang mga kapulisan ngayon .Sa ngayon wala pang ransom demand ang nag- abduct sa biktima," Basbas said.

On the other hand, Zamboanga Sibugay Police Provincial Director Sr. Supt. Robert Roy V. Bahian reported to Gen. Basbas that Kabasalan Mayor George C. Cainglet organized on Friday the Local Critical Incident Management Committee to work for solutions in the kidnapping of Li.

The creation took place during a meeting that was attended by officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government, other agencies, the police, military and other stakeholders in the municipality.

Bahian told Basbas that he has created a Special Investigation Task Group called SITG "L" whose duty is to focus on investigation, search and rescue of Li.

Bahian said that hot pursuit operations against the abductors of Li are underway. Operatives of the task group are combing the whole Kabasalan municipality and its neighboring areas in an effort to rescue of Li.

Meanwhile, observers recommend to all local leaders from the municipal down to the barangay level to put up buffer zone or structure in every exit and entry in their area and all coastal areas in all municipalities for crime prevention and security awarness .

T”hey should construct a building where law enforcers have a comcort while manning security zone with basic things equipment like vehicles, communication, potable water, electricity and fortified room shelters,” said one observer. — Allen Abastillas