

### **Group 3- HACKING**

Buntog, Fe Mariel

Daing, Althea Hassel

Labadan, Lorenz Jouebren

Murcilla, Clyde Omar

Tagaylo, Blizza Mae

## **Nahuling hacker ng COMELEC, posibleng pagpiyansahin ng P600K**

COMELEC website was hacked in March of 2016, revealing the private details of more than a 55 million Filipinos. This event, which went by the name “Comeleaks” turned out to be one of the most significant hacking incidents associated with government institutions around the world. The hacker branded himself as “kh4lifax” while vandalizing the site as his digital signature.

When police traced it back to an IP address connected to NBI (National Bureau of Investigation), they eventually got to know who the suspect was. Paul Biteng is the one who reported to have been behind this attack and he was involved in various online games hacking. In fact he became popular on the internet acting like a hacker teaching and showing them a video tutorials. However, Biteng was arrested by NBI agents in April 2016 when they raided his home and confiscated his computer for forensic analysis.

The main victim was the COMELEC (Philippine Commission on Elections). There were more than 55 million voters whose personal data got leaked. This incident puts lives at risk due to cyber crime like identity theft and misuse information. On many levels there are other reasons why this act needs to stop. No remorse was shown by Biteng even after he was arrested and they even found out that he was a part of Anonymous Philippines’ hacking associates. The investigators (NBI) hoped that other individuals involved could also be caught soon after the incident despite him being captured already. COMELEC Chair Andres Bautista emphasized the severe consequences of such cybercrimes.

After Beting was arrested the trial took place in 2020, and the Manila court dismissed the cybercrime case against Biteng, citing that the prosecution’s failure to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. In spite of insufficient proof, Biteng was freed.

The Comeleaks incident shows the global concern regarding how election systems are vulnerable to hacking. This calls for strict security measures that should be put in place to protect sensitive information during voting periods. The high demand for election-related information by even the candidates indicates that there is a need for strong security protocols throughout before, during and after elections.

We also have found another incident of election hacking, The case of seven Chinese hackers who were indicted for computer intrusions targeting critics of China. The group APT31 were seeking access to networks around the world used by various journalists, politicians and companies with an aim of stealing confidential information using advanced means. There were several victims within American society and

Also US government officials including politicians among others hence proving that cyber attacks targeting electoral systems have too little resistance.

This incident Comeleaks and APT31 are the proof or reminders about increased threats from electoral cyberattacks via hackers internationally. We think that securing and proving more robust security on these types of events, especially now that elections are also coming. Governments need to provide a more safe and robust way of keeping the private information and other information that might get leaked in public.

## REFERENCES

[https://youtu.be/DSB7yRRsuM0?si=XIP\\_kIcMLsB5P40C](https://youtu.be/DSB7yRRsuM0?si=XIP_kIcMLsB5P40C)

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1234860/comeleak-hacker-cleared-of-cybercrime-charges>

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/02/29/1996840/comeleaks-hacker-acquitted>

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/04/21/1575594/it-grad-23-arrested-comelec-website-hack>

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/02/29/1996840/comeleaks-hacker-acquitted/amp/>

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/780822/comelec-hacker-arrested-asks-nbi-chief-for-a-selfie/amp>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/seven-hackers-associated-chinese-government-charged-computer-intrusions-targeting-perceived>