



P N P News Release

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US TRIP HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS -- LACSON

PNP Chief, Director General Panfilo M Lacson laughed off allegations that the purpose of his trip to the United States was to solicit support for himself as a possible "successor" to President Joseph Estrada.

"It was an official trip. We followed-up the commitment of the Foreign Operations and Appropriations Committee of the US Congress to donate \$26-million to the PNP Foundation Inc.," he explained.

PNP Spokesman, Senior Superintendent Nicanor A Bartolome announced that Lacson was also invited to receive an award from the American Society of Industrial Security in Alexandria, Virginia.

"The line of succession under the Constitution is very clear, and it does not include the PNP Chief. Assuming control of the country's political leadership has never entered my mind. As I have said before, I have no intention of getting involved in politics. I am a police officer, not a politician, and the only political act that I have engaged in is to cast my vote during elections. Ang hirap naman talaga, nagtatrabaho ka na lang nadadamay ka pa sa pulitika," the PNP Chief said.

Lacson also brushed aside charges that while in the United States, he tried to woo suspected gambling lord Bong Pineda to testify against Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I have not talked to Mr. Pineda and I have no intention of meeting with him or talking to him. We have nothing to discuss," Lacson said.

He reiterated his appeal that the PNP be spared from the current political conflict, pointing out that this would serve to undermine the PNP and probably benefit criminal elements who want nothing more than to see a police force weakened and distracted by intrigues.

"Huwag na ninyong idamay ang mga pulis sa kaguluhan sa pulitika dahil wala kaming kinalaman diyan. We in the PNP have our mandate under the Constitution and we intend to stick to it," Lacson said.