



P N P News Release

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LACSON WANTS MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING

PNP Chief, Director General Panfilo M Lacson today ordered all police Regional and Provincial Directors to aggressively sustain the momentum of operations against all forms of illegal gambling activities.

Lacson issued this instruction following President Estrada's reiteration of the order last September 1 to wage a nationwide crackdown against gambling syndicates that have reportedly resumed operations in some parts of the country.

"If illegal gambling can be eradicated in one cleaning sweep, then by all means, let's do it," the PNP Chief said.

Since he took over last November 16, 1999, the PNP under his leadership has been waging an "all-out-war" against jueteng, masiao, illegal bookie joints, video karera, sakla, and other forms of syndicated gambling activities.

During the first half of the year alone, the PNP raids conducted against illegal gambling activities nationwide resulted in the arrest of 19,568 persons, including 240 suspected financiers and operators.

The 15,000 raids and operations conducted nationwide from January to June this year netted some P7.6 million in cash bets.

The PNP, during the same period, also filed a total of 7,530 cases in court for violation of PD 1602.

According to PNP Spokesman, Senior Superintendent Nicanor A Bartolome, the initial phase of the plan involved the updating and

revalidation of the list of known personalities engaged in illegal gambling activities.

Case build-up efforts are continuously being carried out by all concerned police units against these identified personalities.

Simultaneous with all these efforts, interdiction operations will continue on the ground against the lower level gambling operators, managers, bet collectors, and even the bettors themselves.

Bartolome also cited earlier moves initiated by Lacson against some police personnel suspected of having ties with illegal gambling syndicates.

At least one former Regional Director, five Provincial Directors and several Chiefs of Police, mostly from Northern Luzon, have been relieved and are now being investigated over allegations of being "on the take" from illegal gambling operators.

"This procedure will be sustained for as long as there are PNP personnel who continue to defy the 'no take police' of the Chief, PNP," Bartolome said.