



## **P N P News Release**

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### **MENDOZA ACTS TO ENSURE COPS ATTENDANCE IN COURT HEARINGS**

Policemen who shall fail, without justifiable reason, to appear and testify when so ordered by the Court, Prosecutor, People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB), Hearing Officer or any tribunal, shall be held accountable for "Serious Neglect of Duty," and may face dismissal from the service.

PNP Chief, Director General Leandro R Mendoza issued this warning in the wake of persistent reports that some criminal cases have been dismissed due to the failure of some PNP personnel to appear and testify in court, despite proper notice.

According to Mendoza, "it is the primary duty of a PNP member to appear and testify in a hearing or investigation, especially if he is the arresting officer or principal witness in the case."

Such duty, the PNP Chief said, "must be accorded first priority over all other official functions."

Mendoza's order is a reiteration of an earlier instruction to all PNP personnel to strictly observe existing regulations on court duty, a professional responsibility described by the PNP Chief as "paramount above all regular police duties."

In his Memorandum to all Regional Offices and National Support Units, Mendoza outlined the individual responsibilities of concerned PNP members, and that of their superior officers with regard to subpoena and court notices.

The same Memorandum also sought to correct some administrative of Personnel Officer of PNP units responsible for serving subpoena and court notices to concerned personnel.

It is also the responsibility of the concerned PNP member and his immediate superior to inform the court of any changes in his duty status and office address.

Earlier, Mendoza instructed the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) to coordinate closely with the National Prosecution Service to monitor the attendance of PNP personnel in court hearings.