



## **P N P News Release**

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### **FOUR NPA “TAXMEN” KILLED IN PAMPANGA**

Police in Central Luzon have crippled a major funding pipeline of the communist New People's Army in the region with the killing of four alleged NPA "revolutionary tax collectors."

In his report to PNP Chief, Director General Leandro R Mendoza, PRO-3 Regional Director, Chief Superintendent Reynaldo I Berroya said four members of the local NPA were killed in a clash with police in Macabebe, Pampanga last week.

According to Berroya, two of those killed were Robert Manzano and Antonio Santos. The two other slain dissidents were unidentified.

The NPA group reportedly belonged to the Bagong Nabal ng Bayan or BaNaBa, which operates in the Bulacan-Pampanga boundary.

Berroya said the Banaba has gained notoriety in the area for exacting "revolutionary taxes" from fishpond operators and even small-scale fishermen.

A joint police team from the Masantol and Macabebe Police Stations chanced upon the four suspects on board a dug-out canoe at Sitio Mindanao, Barangay San Esteban, Macabebe, Pampanga Thursday.

Citing a report from Pampanga Police Director, Senior Superintendent Ismael Rafanan, Berroya said the NPA group was on its way to collect "revolutionary taxes" from a fishpond operator in the area when it figured in an encounter with a police patrol.

The four NPA members were killed on the spot. However, the bodies of the two suspects fell-off the boat and were washed away by strong current.

Police recovered from the suspects' boat an M-16 rifle, a caliber .45 pistol, a hand grenade, a mobile phone, and several extortion letters.