



## **P N P News Release**

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### **NO NEED TO REVAMP PNP**

There is no need to revamp the Philippine National Police since the present police leadership has what it takes to render genuine service and commitment to protect the Filipino people.

Police Director Thompson Lantion, Director for Police Community Relations, said "it is most unfair to call for a major shakeup at the PNP, much more to describe the present leadership as damaged goods and inept, at a time when the whole PNP institution is meeting the challenge head on the lick organized crimes and illegal drug problem."

"The successful drug-bust operation of the 503 kilos of shabu worth P1-billion in Quezon Province is one proof that the PNP is meeting the challenge squarely", Lantion stressed.

He said that the problem of criminality is just too complex to require a simple solution like revamping the PNP. "It needs a strategic approach and the collective effort from every Filipino to lick criminality", Lantion said.

Lantion disclosed that despite heightened play-up of violence in the media, the annual crime volume in the country has been falling by an average of three (3%) percent since 1992.

Citing figures, Lantion said the volume of crime dropped 10% to 37,113 in the first half of 2001, from 41,335 registered in the same period last year.

"To a large extent, this reflects that law enforcement agencies, particularly the PNP, have not been sleeping on their job, nor doing nothing, as some sectors have often projected them to be," he said.

"On the contrary," he said, "the drop in crime volume seems to show that the police, as an institution, has been relatively effective and efficient in its crime busting and crime prevention operations, and is doing quite well in maintaining peace and order under PNP Director General Leandro R Mendoza."

"While some quarters have the legitimate right to air their concern over the resurgence of kidnapping incidents, they must instead help the police and the country to rise above the challenge", Lantion said.

He cited the recent arrest of five dismissed and active Philippine army soldiers implicated in a series of KFR activities.

The arrest of the five Army personnel brought to 11 the number of suspects involved in kidnappings who have been neutralized.

Lantion reported that on account of PNP's relentless efforts towards these lawless elements, it resulted in the neutralization of 189 loosely organized crime groups, allowing their number to drop to 603 during the first trimester of 2001.