



P N P News Release

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POLICE GIRD FOR ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY

PNP Chief, Director General Leandro R Mendoza today alerted all local police units and barangays volunteers to be on the look-out for criminal elements who may take advantage of the long All Saints' Day holiday.

In particular, Mendoza warned the public from falling victims to the "akyat-bahay gang", specially city residents who will leave their homes unattended when they embark on the traditional annual trek to the provinces.

The "akyat-bahay gang" has been known to prey on unguarded residences whose occupants are away for the holiday, Mendoza said citing historical record of incidents documented by the PNP during the holiday seasons of Lent, All Saints' Day, and Christmas.

In a radio message flashed to the 16 PNP Regional Offices around the country, Mendoza ordered maximum deployment of police personnel along major travel routes and vicinity of cemeteries and memorial parks.

According the PNP Spokesman, Chief Superintendent Crescencio L Maralit, the Regional Offices were instructed to provide security and ensure the smooth follow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in crowded cemeteries.

The Regional Offices were also given instructions to establish well-manned and well-equipped Public Assistance Centers in strategic locations, in coordination with the Local Government Units and NGOs, Maralit said.

"These posts will serve both as police visibility station and mobile detachment for immediate response to calls for police assistance," Maralit said.

He said, police will also be on the look-out for organized criminal elements including kidnap-for-ransom groups who may strike at members of affluent families who will gather at the cemeteries.

The PNP Spokesman noted that based on historical records, the most common among police cases in connection with All Saints' Day celebration include vehicular accidents, missing persons, theft, and violation of local ordinances on alcohol prohibition.

"The PNP will be on the ground to provide assistance and security to the public the best way we can. Hopefully, the public will also do their share in ensuring a safe and uneventful celebration through keen vigilance," Maralit said.

Maralit advised the public to be alert against petty thieves, snatchers, and pickpockets who may take advantage of the situation.