



P N P News Release

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8,000 COPS FIELDED FOR SONA

The Philippine National Police will field some 8,000 Policemen to ensure security and order during the opening of the 12th Regular Session of Congress on Monday.

President Arroyo will deliver her State of the Nation Address before the members of the Senate and House of the Representatives during the opening ceremonies of the 12th congress.

A Command Conference was held this morning in Camp Crame upon instructions of the Chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to fine-tune all security preparations for the event.

The meeting was presided by Deputy PNP Chief for Operations, Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante and was attended by Directors of PNP units involved in the security operations.

During the meeting, Galvante reiterated Ebdane's command guidance of "maximum tolerance" toward members of cause-oriented groups that are expected to stage simultaneous mass protest actions in different parts of Metro Manila.

Galvante announced that the PNP Chief has designated Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay , NCRPO Regional Director as Task Force "Kapayapaan-SONA" Commander and overall ground commander of police security forces that will be deployed in at least five locations in Quezon City and Manila.

Aglipay will supervise the operations of three major Task Groups that will perform specific duties under the overall security plan.

These are: Task Group Batasan, under NCRPO Deputy Director for Operations, Chief Superintendent Romulo Sales; Task Group on Anti-Crime and Anti-Terrorism under NCRPO Deputy Director for Administration, Chief Superintendent Rowland Albano; and Task Force Daloy, under Senior Superintendent Luisito Maralit, Director of the NCRPO Traffic Enforcement Group.

Galvante said the Task Group on Anti-Crime and Anti-Terrorism is tasked to ensure that terrorist and criminal elements will not take advantage of the situation.

Central Police District Director, Chief Superintendent Rodolfo Tor has been designated overall commander of Civil Disturbance Management units that will be deployed at the Batasan Complex, Sandiganbayan Complex, Quezon Memorial Circle, and the Veterans Hospital.

Task Force Kapayapaan-SONA will be composed of elements from the NCRPO augmented by troops from Police Regional Offices 3 and 4.