



P N P News Release

Authority : PSSUPT LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL PNP
Public Information Office
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Tel: +6327253179 Fax: +6327255115
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PNP URGES LGUS TO SUPPORT "FIRECRACKER ZONE" CAMPAIGN

The Philippine National Police is encouraging Local Government Units (LGU) to organize their own fireworks display for the coming New Year's Day celebration in order to minimize injuries from the use of sub-standard and dangerous firecrackers by the public.

PNP Chief, Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr. has proposed the setting-up of "firecracker zones" in localities where fireworks and pyrotechnique devices can be used safely and under the supervision of authorities for the New Year revelry.

PNP officials held a dialog today in Camp Crame with leading firecracker manufacturers and dealers to ensure compliance to the law governing the manufacture, sale and use of firecrackers.

A conference among police officials was held yesterday in Camp Crame, presided by PNP Director for Operations, Chief Superintendent Vidal Querol to come-up with guidelines for local police commanders on the setting-up of firecracker zones in their respective areas.

Querol noted that the use of dangerous and sub-standard firecrackers is prevalent in the country, especially among children, which often lead to injuries and even death.

Although firecracker-related injuries have significantly declined over the last six years, Querol said the dangerous practice should be totally done away with.

Last year, the PNP recorded three deaths and almost 600 injuries due to firecracker-related incidents, Querol noted.

Querol emphasized that the PNP is totally supporting the "Iwas Paputok" program of the Department of Health, and is in fact encouraging the public not to use any type firecracker in their merry-making.

"We are offering the firecracker zones as a safer option for the public if only to satisfy their penchant for celebrating the New Year with fireworks and pyrotechniques," Querol said.

Under Republic Act 7183, the PNP is mandated to regulate the manufacture and sale of fireworks products, and to promulgate rules and regulations on the use of such products.

"The paramount consideration here is safety, not only of those who use firecrackers, but also of those who may be likely hurt by these products," he said.

The proposed "firecracker zones" will be under the supervision of safety officers from the LGU, police, fire, and medical services.