



## **P N P News Release**

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### **P20-M WORTH OF MARIJUANA BURNED IN REGION I**

San Fernando City, La-Union - More than 100,000 fully grown marijuana plants worth P20 million were uprooted and burned by combined elements of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency In Region 1 (PDEA-1), Regional Mobile Group of Police Regional Office-1 and Santol Police Station in barangay Sapdaan, Santol, La-Union over the weekend.

Police Senior Superintendent Orlando Mabutas, PDEA-1 regional director, said the plants were discovered in a 10-hectare plantation in the tri-boundaries of La-Union, Benguet and Ilocos Sur during a two-day operation called "Oplan Grass-Cutter".

The operation was led by Senior Inspectors Christopher Abrahan, Reynaldo Lizardo and Emmanuel Reyes of RMG-PRO-1.

Mabutas said "Oplan Grass-Cutter" is part of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's campaign to eradicate illegal drugs in the country, with the PDEA as the lead agency in implementing a national strategy to combat the drug menace.

Meanwhile, nine suspected drug dealers and users arrested by the police in separate buy-bust operations over the weekend in Angeles City and in Metro Manila as part of the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs trade and abuse.

Seized from the suspects were white crystalline substance, or shabu, of varying quantities.