



P N P News Release

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TARLAC'S MOST WANTED MAN FALLS

Central Luzon police operatives yesterday arrested the No. 1 Most Wanted Person in Tarlac province, long wanted by the law for a string of kidnapping, murder and robbery cases.

Benigno Escalona III alias Boy was arrested by combined operatives from the Tarlac City Police Station, the Tarlac CIDG Provincial Office, and the 313rd Provincial Mobile Group during a raid at the suspect's ranch in the province.

In his report to PNP Chief, Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr., PRO-3 Regional Director, Chief Superintendent Vidal E Querol identified Escalona as ring leader of the notorious Escalona Group that operates the province of Tarlac.

According to Querol, Escalona is the subject of three Warrants of Arrest issued by the Honorable Bitty Viliran of the Regional Trial Court Branch 65 of Tarlac City for separate cases of Kidnapping, Murder and Frustrated Murder.

Querol said the arrest of the suspect is the culmination of a manhunt operation launched by the Tarlac City Police Station under Case Operation Plan "Escalona".

Escalona's arrest yesterday was a follow-up operation to the raid conducted on the suspect's residence last October 8 that resulted in the confiscation of several firearms and ammunition.

Escalona is facing trial for the alleged murder of three workers at the Hacienda Luisita in 1994, the murder of Barangay Tanod John Villapana in December 2001, and most recently, the stabbing and

shooting of Joefer Damsco at the King's Diner in Tarlac City last September 21, 2003.

The suspect is now detained at the Tarlac CIDG Provincial Office.