



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cites PNP for 40 percent drop of crime rate nationwide

MANILA, Jan. 11 (PGON) - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo congratulated today the entire Philippine National Police (PNP) for the 40 percent drop in the crime rate nationwide last year as reported to her by PNP chief Avelino Razon.

The President, who graced the 107th founding anniversary of the Manila Police District (MPD) at its headquarters along United Nations Ave. in Manila this morning, said there's "much to celebrate today, especially the big decrease in crimes in the past year" not only in Manila but nationwide.

"Congratulations to the Manila police and congratulations to the police throughout the country," she added. The President also thanked Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim for the 60 new vehicles that the city government donated recently to the MPD, formerly the Western Police District (WPD).

Lim, a former senator and former WPD chief, was the lone "special awardee" at today's MPD founding anniversary celebration. The President also thanked Lim for his commitment to protect her presidency in the face of renewed destabilization moves last year.

"Malaki ang aking pagsalig sa kanyang isang salita nung nagkita tayo sa isang function dito sa Maynila, na ipagtatangol ni Mayor Lim ang panguluhan sa panahon ng inyong lingkod at sa kanyang panahon," the President stressed.

The MPD has a total of 82 new vehicles, 22 of which were donated by the various Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce. The President

also ordered Razon to include the MPD in the PNP's housing program, with the proposed units for MPD members to be built behind its main headquarters on UN Ave.

She urged MPD head Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales to continue his campaign against illegal drugs and warring gangs in the city. Rosales, who gained fame through his successful campaign against illegal drugs as provincial PNP chief in Quezon province, is celebrating his first year as MPD head.

The President recalled that in her 2003 State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA), she paid a special tribute to Rosales for turning down a P35-million bribe from drug syndicates operating in Quezon.

"Now I count on Boysie (Rosales) to move aggressively against drug syndicates in Manila, and the gang wars disturbing the neighborhood," the President said.

Wearing a knee-length black dress and black pumps, the President led the awarding ceremony for Mayor Lim, 15 MPD personnel, and six "Kaibigan ng MPD."

Also present during the ceremonies were Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, a former PNP chief and former secretary of National Defense; National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Geary Barias, Manila Reps. Amado Bagatsing and Grace Bonoan, and Manila Bulletin chair Emilio Yap who donated P500,000 to the MPD. #

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