

PNP, tech firm ink deal on real-time crime reporting system

MANILA -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Home Defense Technology Corporation (HDTC) Inc. have signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on efficient communications and response arrangements for real-time crime reporting system.

PNP officer-in-charge, Lt. Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa and HDTC chief operating officer Jacob Luke Rana signed the pact at the PNP Ante Room, Camp Rafael T. Crame, Quezon City on Thursday.

Gamboa said the agreement aims to provide a real-time crime reporting system triggered by alarms from clients of HDTC which needs police response.

"With this new collaboration, we envision this part of the PNP's Secured, Mobile, Artificial Intelligence-Driven, Real-Time, Technology (SMART) Policing program as a great innovation toward intelligent implementation of innovative policing technology in accordance with existing rules and policies," Gamboa said in a statement on Friday.

On the other hand, HDTC joined the PNP in ensuring a peaceful home and communities all the time.

Such partnership, Gamboa said, would be through providing hi-technology home security gadgets and equipment, "while giving communications and response technology with use of the internet towards safe and secured communities."

On Thursday, the PNP has chosen the proponent for the procurement of body cameras worth around PHP289 million that will be used in anti-illegal drug operations.

Out of six proponents, PNP officer-in-charge, Lt. Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa

said the project for the acquisition of body-worn camera system for police operations was awarded to the EVI Distribution, a San Juan City-based company.

"This system is expected to equip our police units in support of our anti-criminality and anti-terrorism operations including mission-essential equipment for mobility and investigation," Gamboa said in a statement.

"This includes taxes, duties, maintenance and its data sys-

tem," he added.

Gamboa said the National Management and Monitoring Center was chosen to be the unified data hub of the body camera system.

He said the PNP would not only procure body cameras but also "sophisticated, reliable, and secure system which will allow complete system management, real-time live streaming, data storage, and backup, and overall connectivity and monitoring".

Included in the procurement are con-

nectivity systems, accessories, video management software, computer servers, and sufficient storage for the body cameras.

Meanwhile, the PNP Information Technology Management Service will man the monitoring center along with its 17 Regional Monitoring Centers, and 81 Provincial Monitoring Centers (PMCs).

Previously, Gamboa said the PNP is eyeing to use body cameras by 2020. (PNA)

NCRPO to monitor use, sale of firecrackers

MANILA -- National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) acting chief Brig. Gen. Debold Sinas on Friday ordered all police district heads and chiefs to intensify the government's campaign against illegal firecrackers to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries during the Christmas and New Year revelries.

The five districts covered by the NCRPO are the Manila Police District (MPD), Quezon City Police District (QCPD), Northern Police District (NPD), Southern Police District (SPD), and Eastern Police District (EPD).

Sinas ordered policemen to monitor the use, trading, and distribution of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices to ensure that those available in the market are from licensed manufacturers and registered dealers and retailers.

"We have directed our personnel to scout sa lugar nila yung posibleng pagbebenta [in their places where selling of illegal fire-

crackers is possible]," Sinas in a press briefing at QCPD station 10.

"Ngayon inatasan ko na to talk to their mayors based on their ordinances dahan-dahan po kaming mag-monitor [Now, I assigned police chiefs to talk to their mayors based on their ordinances, we will monitor it slowly]," he added.

He said firecracker safety seminars for the policemen had been conducted.

"The seminar kicked off last Tuesday at NPD which highlighted the lessons learned from past incidents, relevant laws and regulations on fireworks and safety in handling procedures and updates as well as innovations being implemented by the Philippine National Police," said Sinas.

"Vigilance and compliance is a shared responsibility among police officers, industry stakeholders, and the community. We must work together to achieve our collective

aspiration for a safe and joyous Christmas and New Year celebration," he said.

The NCRPO has also coordinated with the Bureau of Fire and Protection (BFP) and the chiefs of city police to talk with local government executives on the designated areas to sell firecrackers.

Usually, there are only one to two designated areas for the sale of firecrackers in each city in Metro Manila.

"We cannot discount the incidents that were caused by negligence, blatant disregard of safety standards and violation of rules and regulations. Sudden loss of lives and livelihood could have been prevented if only extraordinary diligence was observed," Sinas said.

On Monday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) announced the start of the crackdown on stores selling illegal firecrackers.

Officer-in-Charge Lt. Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa ordered the early monitoring

No order for PNP, AFP to kill drug offenders: PRRD

MANILA -- President Rodrigo R. Duterte has vehemently denied that he has directed the police and the military to kill drug offenders in the country.

During the inauguration of The Tent at Vista Global South in Las Piñas City on Thursday night, Duterte said he would rather let drug personalities rot in jail than order cops and soldiers to kill the lawbreakers.

"I do not allow the policemen and the military men to kill a per-

son," the President said.

"Ang pulis, bakit ka patayin? For what? Bakit ka papatayin? Tapos na ang problema niya kung papatayin mo. I-pasok mo doon sa kulongan, doon sa Bilibid kasi doon mag-tiis siya (Why would the police kill you? What for? Why would they kill you? It would just end the drug offender's problem if he gets killed. Just let him suffer in prison)," he added.

Duterte issued the statement, as his critics continued to blame him for the drug-related deaths since he waged a war on narcotics trade in 2016.

Around 5,552 drug suspects have been killed during the conduct of a total of 151,601 legitimate anti-drug operations from July 1, 2016 to Nov. 30, 2019, according to the government's official data.

The President said killings of drug offenders during legitimate anti-drug operations only happen when the suspects offer resistance.

He said the deaths of drug suspects should be attributed to members of syndicates involved in unlawful narcotics sale.

"Ito hulihin, ito sa pulis, takot eh. 'Pag ganon pa lang ng pulis diyan, 'Sir, huwag sir. Sir.' 'O nasaan?' 'Dito.' Tapos ito, ito ito. Dire-derecho na (Arrested drug suspect are afraid of the consequences of his acts. So, when asked by police where is he getting the illegal drugs, he has no choice but tell the truth)," Duterte said.

"Chain reaction na iyan. Ngayon ito dito, 'yang sa taas magtingin siya, ayun, papatayin talaga lahat ng pumiyok (So that's a chain reaction. Now, if the drug syndicates learned about it, they will kill those who spill

the beans to the police)," he added.

On Dec. 7, former Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares raised the possibility of Duterte getting arrested, once the International Criminal Court (ICC) is done with its preliminary examination of the drug war in the Philippines.

But Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo on Dec. 8 said the ICC has no jurisdiction over the Philippines, thus, cannot arrest Duterte on the basis of the alleged commission of crimes against humanity for the deaths of thousands of drug personalities in the country.

In its "Report on Preliminary Examination Activities 2019," the ICC reveals its intent to conclude its initial review of Duterte's war on illegal drugs by 2020 to see whether there is a need to conduct a full-blown investigation into the drug problem in the Philippines.

The ICC in February 2018 conducted a preliminary examination of Duterte's anti-narcotics drive, based on lawyer Jude Sabio's communication which alleges that the President has committed crimes against humanity for drug-related deaths that happened from July 1, 2016 to Mar. 31, 2017.

The Philippines was out of the ICC on Mar. 17, 2019, or exactly a year after the issuance of a formal notification about its intention of leaving the international tribunal body.

The international court's preliminary examination, however, still pushed through, as it insisted that it has jurisdiction over Duterte's possible commission of crimes since the supposed killings happened when the Philippines was still a member-state of the international tribunal. (PNA)