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**MANILA** -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday vowed to further intensify the government's crackdown on illegal drugs, particularly in curbing its supply from other countries.

Officials of agencies leading the drug war presented three suspects, including a Chinese national, who were arrested in separate operations in Makati and Las Piñas and yielded a total of PHP2.6 billion worth of shabu, the biggest drug bust for this year.

"We really have to focus on the supply side because of our aggressive campaign, there is still plenty of supply of illegal drugs. We have to stop the network of the supply of illegal drugs," PNP officer-in-charge, Lt. Gen. Archie Gamboa said in a press briefing at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

"This is proof of our intensified campaign against illegal drugs, this time focusing on high-value targets, drug syndicates and drug traffickers who continue to be the sources of illegal sub-

stances that are continuously being peddled on the streets," he added.

Gamboa, together with Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Chairman Catalino Cuy, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Deputy Director-General Greg Pimentel, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) acting chief Brig. Gen. Debold Sinas and PNP Drug Enforcement Group (DEG) acting chief Col. Romeo Caramat, presented to the media the confiscated drugs concealed inside green tea packs.

Gamboa said he was eyeing to recalibrate the campaign against illegal drugs.

"Yung sinabi kong calibrated ibig sabihl, i-revisit 'yung campaign kasi three years na rin siya eh [What I mean by calibrated is to revisit the campaign because it has been three years since the drug war started]," Gamboa said.

Gamboa pointed out the vagueness in defining high-value targets (HVTs) as part of the components of the renewed

drug war.

"This time, the assessment for the three years we have conducted this drug war and then we reassess ask the regional director as the concerned national support unit on this campaign," he said.

Gamboa told Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo, former co-chairman of the Interagency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD), that the PNP would evaluate and analyze its strategy in eliminating Illegal drugs in the country.

Gamboa said the move was guided by the Philippine Anti-Drugs Strategy (PADS), formulated by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

**Decline in shabu supply**  
Meanwhile, Cuy said the supply of illegal drugs on the streets will be affected by the anti-drug operations.

"Definitely (bababa ang supply) (it will decrease). Nawala sa market so may vacuum sa (There is a lack in the market so there is a vacuum on the) supply side," Cuy said.

Cuy said the Duterte administration is winning its campaign

against illegal drugs, noting that the success could be attributed to the improved tactics of law enforcers as well as the cooperation of the public.

"It's very difficult to say you're winning or losing sa drugs. Sa atin (For us), what we see now nakaka-confiscate tayo (we confiscated) and what's important for us is public awareness," Cuy said.

"Itong mga nahuhuli natin (Those arrested) just shows 'yung (the) increase of efficiency ng ating (of our)law enforcement, 'yung (the) increased cooperation ng public na pagrereport ng (through reporting of) suspicious-looking people, so for me, for DDB, we believe we are winning the campaign," he added. (PNA)

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## PAF attack capabilities up with 'Cobra' choppers

**MANILA** -- The Philippine Air Force (PAF)'s capability to provide air support to ground troops got a much-needed boost with the arrival of two Bell AH-1S "Cobra" attack helicopters donated by the Jordanian government on November 26.

"The two-blade, single-engine attack helicopters, which arrived at PAF Headquarters in Clark Airbase, Pampanga on 26 November 2019, will be used primarily for close air support in internal security and counter-terrorism operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Department of National Defense (DND) spokesperson Arsenio Andolong said in a statement to reporters on Thursday.

The two "Cobra" helicopters will be joining the eight AugustaWestland AW-109 light attack helicopters in service along with the much older McDonnell Douglas MG-520 "Defender" choppers of which there are

an estimated 12 in PAF service.

"These 'Cobra' helicopters from Jordan are a manifestation of the widening of our circle of friends," Andolong said referring to the stronger defense cooperation between the Philippines and the Kingdom of Jordan that led to the donation of the two aircraft.

This year, four PAF pilots trained in Jordan to operate the "Cobra" helicopters, two of whom underwent further training to become test and instructor pilots.

"These new assets, which are equipped with guns and rockets, will immensely help our troops on the ground and enhance the overall capability of the PAF," Andolong added.

Andolong sees no interoperability problems with the "Cobra" helicopters as PAF pilots are familiar and sufficiently trained to operate the aircraft's system. The assembly of the two helicopters is now underway.

These additional assets of PAF will be formally received by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana once tests and inspections have been completed.

The Bell AH-1 "Cobra" is a two-blade, single-engine attack helicopter manufactured by Bell Helicopter. It was developed using the engine, transmission and rotor system of the Bell UH-1 Iroquois.

A member of the prolific Huey family, the AH-1 is also referred to as the "Huey Cobra" or "Snake".

In September 2018, the DND and the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on defense cooperation.

Lorenzana and Jordan's Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihath, signed the MOU during the three-day official visit of President Rodrigo Duterte to the Middle Eastern nation in September last year. (PNA)

## P149-K worth of vape products seized in Pangasinan

**LINGAYEN, Pangasinan** -- A total of 666 vape juices and 20 vapes amounting to PHP149,070 have been confiscated by the authorities in Pangasinan as of Nov. 27.

In an interview on Wednesday, Pangasinan police provincial director, Col. Redrico Maranan said the violators were brought to the police station for documentation and were later freed but their vape products were seized.

"We recorded their names and circumstances for future legal action," he said.

In Dagupan City, authorities are ensuring enough manpower and coordination with vape shops in the implementation of President Rodrigo Duterte's mandate against the use of vape in public places.

Dagupan City chief, Lt. Col. Abubakar Mangelen Jr. said they have been coordinating with the Public Order and Safety Office (POSO) chief Robert Christopher Erfe-Mejia and the Anti-Hawking Group, to ensure enough manpower to ensure the local officials' compliance with the President's order.

"We will begin the arrest of people who defy the President's order. We will comply and we will arrest people vaping in public places but so far, we have not recorded any violators yet," he said.

The Dagupan City police has met with owners of vape shops in the city to inform them of the do's and don'ts.

Duterte issued the directive following the first reported case of an illness related to vaping in the country. (PNA)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.” – James 4:7