

## HPG vows constant visibility to ease Edsa traffic

**MANILA** -- The new head of the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) on Wednesday assured constant visibility of police officers along the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa), especially during rush hours when traffic congestion is at its peak.

"We will be helping in traffic direction and control. This is also part of proactive measures against all types of crimes that may be committed along Edsa," HPG director, Brig. Gen. Eliseo Cruz told reporters.

Cruz said that at least 170 HPG personnel, 20 mobile cars and 36 HPG motorcycles have already been assigned to position along Edsa to render assistance in easing traffic flow and running after undisciplined motorists.

He said the return of HPG along Edsa is part of the mandate of the unit to be present in major thoroughfares not only in Metro Manila but also in the provinces.

"There are some people stating that police presence along Edsa is good since some motorists are more afraid of policemen than civilian traffic enforcers," said Cruz.

The deployment of HPG policemen along the main thoroughfare was done in the past administration and was proven effective in compelling motorists to follow traffic rules.

This resulted in a decrease in travel time along Edsa by a few minutes.

Earlier, policemen manning Edsa were pulled out and were tasked to run after car thieves and other vehicle-related crimes. (PNA)

## DILG, DOJ start joint review of GCTA for inmates

**MANILA** -- The joint review on the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 10592 providing for the grant of Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) credits for prisoners will start shortly, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Thursday.

In a statement, DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said that based on the recommendation of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra have created a joint committee "to review the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and the Uniform Policy and Guidelines on the computation of credits and allowances provided under Republic Act 10592."

He said the joint review

must be done to determine if there are inconsistencies between the law and the IRR and the 10-day suspension will give the joint DILG and DOJ team ample time to revisit its provisions and make the necessary adjustments in the IRR or recommend amendments to Congress, if necessary.

The joint committee will submit its report and draft revised IRR, uniform policy and guidelines on the computation of time credits and allowances under RA 10592 to the Secretary of Justice and Secretary of the Interior and Local Government within 10 working days from the issuance of the order.

The joint committee will be chaired by the DOJ and co-chaired by DILG.

The Bureau of Corrections

## PNP lauds UP security officers' openness to undergo training

**MANILA** -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday welcomed the University of the Philippines (UP) openness to have their security officers undergo training by police officers, in a bid to maintain peace and order in its campuses.

"Well that's a good sign, they admit that there is really a problem there. No less than the Chair of the CHED (Commission on Higher Education) admitted that there is a problem inside the campus, especially the proliferation of illegal drugs and we have reports not only in UP Diliman but also in UP Los Baños where there are incidents of robberies, petty crimes and even rape which are not reported to us," PNP chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde told reporters when sought for a comment on Thursday.

Albayalde was reacting to reports quoting UP Vice President for Public Affairs Elena Pernia as saying that the UP police is open to the idea of undergoing training by the PNP.

Ched Chairman Prospero De Vera earlier said that UP



police does not have information and is incapable of dealing with these crime situations.

Albayalde suggested to train them inside the Camp Crame where there are available facilities.

"It would be better if this will be done in our facilities because they don't even have a facility. They can come here in Camp Crame and they can also have dialogues with us. If they want, we can also come to them or we can do it in a neutral ground. But as far as training is concerned, it's better if they come here. We have better facilities here," said

Albayalde.

Albayalde also reiterated that there is no militarization in different universities and campuses as claimed by the militant groups.

"They really need our help. They cannot say that they can handle it on their own and again, this is not militarization. There is no militarization here. (It) will be a series of dialogues already in specific schools. This is what we have discussed with student leaders of various schools," he stressed.

On Tuesday, de Vera stressed the need to review the 30-year old agreement between the Department of

National Defense and the UP that sets rigid conditions for the entry of government security forces into its campuses.

In 1989, UP President Francisco Nemenzo Jr., and then-Secretary of the National Defense, Fidel Ramos, forged an agreement limiting the capacity and presence of police and military force in its major campuses and regional units.

In addition, the 1989 accord specifically provides that "no member of police may conduct operations on UP campuses without prior coordination with, or as requested by UP authorities". (PNA)

## Kapa founder's wife faces P168-M tax evasion raps

**MANILA** -- The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Thursday filed tax evasion charges before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against Reyna L. Apolinario, the corporate secretary of Kapa Community Ministry International Inc., (Kapa) and wife of its head, Pastor Joel Apolinario.

The charges initiated by the Revenue District Office No. 110 are for violation of provisions of the Tax Code for willful attempt to evade or defeat tax and failure to file return, supply correct and accurate information, pay tax, withhold and remit tax and refund excess taxes withheld on compensation for taxable years 2017-2018.

In a press briefing, BIR Deputy Commissioner Marissa O. Cabrereros declined to comment on whether separate investigations are being undertaken on Kapa itself or on its other officials.

Mrs. Apolinario is being sued for an estimated total income tax liability of PHP168.2 million, inclusive of surcharges and interests, broken down into PHP163.9 million for 2017 and PHP4.3 million for 2018.

Revenue officials said Mrs. Apolinario has not filed her income tax returns (ITRs) for taxable years 2012-2015 but filed an ITR

for taxable year 2016 declaring an income of only PHP206,578. She also declared income for taxable year 2017 and 2018 of PHP171,000 and PHP12.06 million, respectively.

The BIR noted that in 2018, the declared beginning capital of Mrs. Apolinario in her audited financial statements reached PHP306.9 million.

Nine vehicles were likewise registered under Mrs. Apolinario's name in 2017 and 2018 which were not declared in her financial statements submitted to the BIR along with 13 businesses under her name consisting of retail-construction, materials/garments, gasoline stations, and convention stores, computer and printing services, quarry, bakeshop and refreshment, and media.

Aside from Apolinario, the BIR also announced the filing of tax charges against nine other firms, namely Phimco Industries Inc., Provident Tree Farms Inc., Elite Garments International Inc., Jayran International Sales Corp., Bestline Mart, Top Belagio Super Sales Corp., Axispointe Builders & Construction Company, MMC Food Industries Inc., and Asia Auto Interior Inc. (PNA)