



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**CHR, PNP agree on more transparent reporting of deaths related to gov't drug campaign**

**QUEZON CITY**—Officials of both the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) met on Tuesday, 29 August 2017, at Camp Crame, Quezon City to discuss possible partnerships towards protecting human rights in the context of the nationwide anti-illegal drug campaign.

*“Umaaasa kami na patuloy ang mga ganitong pagkakataon ng pagbabahagian ng mga pananaw. Pareho lamang naman tayong naghahanap ng katotohanan at katarungan. At ang katarungan ay makakamit lamang kung pinoprotekhan at pinahahalagaan ang mga batas,”* said CHR Chairperson Chito Gascon

(We hope to sustain this kind of avenue for exchange of views and perspectives. We [the CHR and the PNP] both just want to speak truth to power and justice. And justice could only be obtained if the rule of law is respected and protected.)

CHR Chairperson Gascon welcomed the opportunity for both agencies to strengthen collaboration in upholding the rule of law and to ensure effective monitoring and investigation of drug-related cases.

“This is an important and remarkable event for the CHR and the PNP. PNP is happy that both will work hand in hand towards human rights,” said Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) OIC-Secretary Catalino Cuy.

PNP Chief Ronald Dela Rosa and DILG-OIC Secretary emphasized during their messages that the PNP recognizes the mandate of the CHR and understand that human rights is an obligation of state agents. They recognize also that the Commission’s role is important in ensuring checks and balances in the government.

*“Tanggap namin na state agents talaga ang babantayan ng CHR,”* said General Dela Rosa in his speech.

(We have accepted that the CHR monitors the conduct of state agents.)

In the spirit of transparency, openness and full disclosure, the CHR asked for the case folders and checklist of all cases involving deaths in relation to the campaign on drugs whether outside or as a result of police operations. Chairperson Gascon stressed that in order to fully perform CHR’s mandate, the office needs the full cooperation of PNP and the DILG in providing complete information on these drug-related cases.

The said meeting took place after Senator Panfilo Lacson asked for the cooperation of the two agencies to discuss matters concerning the campaign against illegal drugs during the Senate inquiry on the death of Kian de los Santos last 24 August 2017.■

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