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MAMANG PULIS 4 police units commended for busting KFR gang

By Alfred Dalizon

POLICE Director General Avelino I. Razon, Jr. has commended four groups of PNP officers and men for busting a kidnap-for-ransom gang operating in Metro Manila and Central Luzon.

They include members of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, headed by Senior Supt. Leonardo A. Espina; the Nueva Ecija Provincial Police Office, under Senior Supt. Napoleon M. Taas; Manila Police District members, headed by Chief Supt. Roberto L. Rosales and the Pasay City Police Station operatives under Senior Supt. Marieto Valerio.

Razon said the cops arrested 10 suspects, including ringleader Florentino Amolo, in the kidnapping of Philippine National Bank executive Ramon Murillo last June.

"The arrest of the Amolo Group exemplifies the resolve of the PNP in eradicating organized crime groups engaged in criminal activities," Razon said.

He said the Murillo case is only the fourth kidnapping case so far recorded this year, indicating that kidnap-for-ransom is indeed at an all-time low compared with the previous years' record.

"And we agree with the observation of anti-crime watchdogs that some crime syndicates engaged in KFR have already shifted to other forms of criminal activities. But while KFR is at an all-time low, the PNP will not allow more 'new players' to venture into this kind of criminal activity. They will suffer the same fate as the Amolo Group," Razon said.

Razon described the gang members as 'new players' in KFR activities and ordered his men to follow through with the hunt for the remaining members. Citing PACER records, Espina said the members of the Amolo Group were previously involved in robbery cases in Cavite, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Metro Manila. The group was believed responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Korean businessman Chan Kil An in Cavite early this month.

"We have known the Amolo Group to be involved in the Chan and Murillo kidnapping cases, but we are still looking deeper into their other activities," Espina said. With the arrest of the 10 suspects, PACER considers the Amolo Group "effectively neutralized" with only two remaining members still unaccounted for.

According to Espina, the group abducted Murillo in Quezon City last June 3. The kidnapers held him captive and demanded P15-million ransom. Murillo was released unharmed on June 6 after the gang accepted the P1 million ransom paid by the victim's family.

(The PNP leadership is asking victims of criminality and rogue officers to send their complaints through: Isumbong Mo Kay Tsip at 0917-8475757; the Anti-Kotang Text 0927-5151515; PNP TXT 2920, DILG Patrol 117 or e-mail at tsip1@pnp.gov.ph or tsip@pnp.gov.ph.)