



Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, PNP
Camp Crame, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM

TO : See Distribution

FROM : Chief, PNP

SUBJECT : Decongestion of PNP Lock-Up Cells

DATE : AUG 14 2012

1. References:

- a. List of Detainees at the PNP Custodial Center as of May 18, 2012;
- b. BJMP SOP No. 2011-01 dated January 4, 2011; and
- c. News Reports re: Jailbreaks in some PNP Detention Cells.

2. This pertains to the alarming incidents of jailbreaks that transpired in some PNP Detention Cells leading to the escape of nine (9) inmates in Station 5, QCPD on September 14, 2011; 10 inmates in Mandaluyong Police Station on May 16, 2012; and three (3) suspects in Bago, City Negros Occidental on March 21, 2012, among others.

3. One of the factors that contributed to the above-mentioned jailbreaks is jail congestion, a problem which is prevalent in most of the temporary lock-up cells of PNP units and police stations.

4. On the other hand, the reason why said temporary lock-up cells are extremely overcrowded is because some of the prisoners temporarily detained therein are already "overstaying". Although such prisoners are no longer under custodial investigation or preliminary investigation by the prosecutor's office because a criminal case against him/her was already filed before the Court, he/she is not yet committed to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

5. This happens when the Court has not yet issued the corresponding commitment order. It also happens when the prisoner is not immediately delivered to the specific jail indicated since the PNP unit concerned is not aware that a commitment order has already been issued.

6. An accounting on May 18, 2012 was also made and it was found out that the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame is already congested because of the increasing number of high-risk detention prisoners who have been arrested and indicted for various offenses, being detained and/or committed therein.

7. The continued practice of committing these prisoners under the custody of the PNP Custodial Center proved to be unduly burdensome on the part of the PNP because of the financial and manpower requirement it entails, and the fact that said custodial center was established only to serve as a temporary lock-up facility and to consolidate all lock-up cells of various operating units inside Camp Crame. It is not a long-term jail facility which can house a number of prisoners like the facilities of the BJMP.

8. Based on the foregoing, concerned PNP offices/units are hereby directed to undertake the following directives:

- a. When the case against the detention prisoner is already filed in Court, the PNP unit concerned shall verify with the Court whether or not a commitment order has already been issued;
- b. When the commitment order has not yet been issued by the Court, the Chief of Police or the Head of the PNP unit must write a formal request letter addressed to the Clerk of Court for the issuance of a commitment order to the BJMP of the place or territory where the prisoner is being tried (**See Annex A – sample request letter**);
- c. When the commitment order has already been issued by the Court, the Chief of Police or the Head of the PNP unit must ensure that the prisoner is immediately delivered, without delay, to the jail indicated in the commitment order; and
- d. Prosecutors handling the case must be reminded that the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame is only used as a temporary lock-up facility for persons under custodial investigation and to consolidate lock-up cells of various PNP operating units therein. Therefore, unless otherwise specifically instructed by the CPNP, high-risk detention prisoners must instead be committed to the BJMP Jail in Bicutan, Taguig City.

9. It must be emphasized that utmost care and diligence must always be exerted in handling detention prisoners so that incidents of jailbreaks which tarnish the image of the PNP, will be prevented.

10. For strict compliance.




NICANOR A. BARTOLOME, CSEE
Police Director General

Distribution:

All RDs, PROs
Dirs, NOSUs

Cc:

Command Group
D-Staff

CPNP Ltr '12 S049595



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"To Serve and Protect."

SAMPLE LETTER REQUEST

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 38, City of Manila

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,

Plaintiff,

CRIM. CASE No. 12-290996

For:

- v e r s u s -

Viol. of RA-9208

JIMMY B. DEL ROSARIO,

Accused.

X ----- X

REQUEST FOR THE ISSUANCE OF **COMMITMENT ORDER**

April 27, 2012

The Branch Clerk of Court
RTC-Manila, Branch 38
Arroceros, Manila

Sir/Madam:

Kindly be informed that the detention cell of the JOSE ABAD SANTOS POLICE STATION (PS-7, MPD), Jose Abad Santos Street, Tondo, Manila, is already congested with inmates who have been arrested/detained and indicted for various offenses.

Being the Station Commander of said police station, I directed the jailer (PO3 Juan Manalo) to turn over all the inmates to the Manila City Jail. He however reported that he could not deliver some inmates to the Manila City Jail since the required COMMITMENT ORDER had not yet been issued by the concerned Court.

In this connection, I respectfully and humbly request for your kind assistance for the issuance of a COMMITMENT ORDER concerning the above-named accused who is presently detained in our police station.

Very truly yours,

PSUPT ARTURO L PAGLINAWAN
Station Commander, PS-7, MPD
0918-8888888 354-0415