

Police forces have launched a renewed fight against illegal drugs with the creation of a reinforced Anti-illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force.

City Police OIC Director Sr. Supt. Angelito Casimiro bared this Monday, as he announced humble accomplishments of the local police in its various operations over the past days.

Fourteen individuals were apprehended in the anti-illegal drug operations last week. 26 sachets of shabu were recovered during the said operations.

Col. Casimiro said the local police are closely coordinating with the local government unit for a case operation plan with funding support from the LGU.

He stressed that the renewed drive against illegal drugs is due to the fact that much of the criminal cases happening in the city are observed to be drug-related.

Aside from covert operations in different areas in the city, authorities are also intensifying campaign inside the Joaquin Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex in grandstand following reports that some internally displaced persons (IDPs) are also engaged in the illegal trade.

Meanwhile, the OIC City Director said the recent arrest in Las Piñas City, of the 5-man group linked to drug trafficking and gun for hire operations in Zamboanga is a big boost to the ongoing anti-drug operations here.

He revealed that the arrest of the gang and the conviction of notorious drug pusher Margani Samla alias "Binladen" a years ago have tremendously reduced drug trafficking in barangay Recodo in the west coast. However, he said the authorities are still faced with the challenge of other groups emerging, as the trade involves huge money.

Police step up 'war' vs drugs

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This is also the reason why attempts to ship in volumes of shabu to Zamboanga and later to Tawi-tawi, are pursued. These drugs are intended for Malaysia where the cost is much higher, according to Casimiro. "This forms part of the South-East-Asia drug ring". — Sheila Covarrubias