



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **PUNO: PNP TO LIMIT VIP SECURITY TO 2 POLICE ESCORTS**

Secretary Ronnie Puno of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said the Philippine National Police will soon issue a directive limiting armed escorts assigned to government officials and private individuals to only two police officers per person.

Puno said that under this new order to be issued by PNP chief Director General Jesus Verzosa, a government official or private individual should show proof that his life is under serious threat to be exempted from this two-escort limit rule.

The DILG chief also noted that he has already stopped long ago the practice of assigning officers from the PNP's Special Action Force (SAF) to act as security escorts as this should be the function of the Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO).

"We are going to tighten this procedure a little bit by requiring that only two security escorts be provided for each individual," Puno said.

Puno said the directive also covers local chief executives, who usually have more than two police officers assigned to protect them.

In the 2007 election period, the PNP had already imposed this limit of assigning only two policemen as detailed VIP security personnel for every individual.

Government officials or electoral candidates who had wanted to be exempted from this rule had to secure an approval from the Commission on Elections at that time.

The PNP, then under the leadership of Director General Oscar Calderon, had imposed the security detail limit to prevent politicians from using policemen as armed bodyguards or goons during the elections.