



Philippine Consulate General Sydney

PRESS RELEASE

OPERATION HOMERUN HITS INTERNATIONAL DRUG SYNDICATE

Manila – The Philippine Government conducted an anti-narcotics operation that resulted in the neutralization of an international drug trafficking syndicate.

The Philippines' Task Force on Drug Couriers (TFDC) and counterpart agencies of other Asian countries are cooperating in joint international operations in their countries. In 17 March 2010, the TFDC led a mission called "Operation Homerun" which coordinated the actions of anti-narcotics teams in three countries against an international syndicate operating in Thailand, Malaysia, China, and the Philippines.

The operation arrested syndicate members, who included nine Nigerians, one Thai, one Malaysian, and two Philippine nationals. Three kilograms of cocaine were seized.

The TFDC is a multi-agency group composed officers of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Bureau of Immigration, Bureau of Customs, National Bureau of Investigation, Manila International Airport Authority, as well as members from the Department of Labor and Employment and Philippine Tourism Authority.

The TFDC is also undertaking an action plan to rescue female Philippine nationals who are exploited by syndicates as drug mules or couriers. It is coordinating counterpart agencies of other countries to coordinate bilateral or regional actions against the recruitment or victimization of Filipino travelers as drug couriers.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) advises Filipinos traveling overseas to be cautious of accepting requests or offers from individuals or groups to carry packages, which may carry illegal drugs. Asian countries are meting harsh punishments to persons caught carrying drugs. China punishes drug trafficking 50 grams or more of illegal drugs by 15 years imprisonment or death. Muslim countries punish drug trafficking with death.

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