

Some cops deployed during SONA positive for COVID-19

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At least 82 cops from the **Quezon City Police District (QCPD)**, including those who were deployed during President Duterte's 6th and last State of the Nation Address (SONA), have tested positive for COVID-19.

Citing information from the **city's Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU)**, the **Quezon City local government** said the policemen were detailed at QCPD's Police Station 3 (Talipapa) as well as Police Community Precincts 1 and 2 (Unang Sigaw and Bahay Toro).

They were part of the 161 police personnel who underwent a routine swab testing on July 23. The remaining 79 turned out negative.

Their test results came out on July 27 and 28.

According to QCPD Director Brig. Gen. Antonio Yarra, 51 of policemen who tested positive for COVID-19 were part of the police contingents that manned the Commonwealth Avenue area during President Duterte's SONA on Monday.

Yarra added 46 of them were detailed near the UP Technohub data while the remaining personnel were assigned to route security and did not directly engage with protesters.

"There was no direct link with SONA yet, considering the testing was done July 23," Yarra said in a Viber message. "Their station commander tested negative and stays healthy."

The number of infections among the station personnel is "alarming," Yarra added in a press conference.

CESU head Dr. Rolando Cruz said the COVID-positive law enforcers are all asymptomatic and have been fully vaccinated. They are currently isolated at the city's HOPE facilities.

Local government officials are currently discussing if they need to place communities near the police station and precincts where the policemen are assigned to under granular lockdown to avoid the further spread of the virus.

Police Station 3 Commander Lt. Col. Cristine Tabdi said their office will remain in operation, but will only receive reports and complaints outdoors. It will also be restricted to the public and the visitors. Tabdi also vowed to investigate how the outbreak occurred in her area of jurisdiction, the local government added.

Meanwhile, persons under police custody (PUPCs) of Station 13 will be temporarily turned over to QCPD headquarters in Camp Karingal while the disinfection of the area is ongoing, Yarra said.

The personnel who are currently under isolation will also be temporarily replaced by the District Mobile Force Battalion and Reactionary Standby Support Force, the police director added.