

26 January 2009

## **Gov't Forces Uprooted Thousands of Marijuana**

*Camp Melchor F dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela* – Joint elements of 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Police Regional Office I, Military Intelligence Group I (MIG I) Army Intelligence Security Group (ISG) and Regional Mobile Group (RMG), uprooted eight hundred forty six thousand (846,000) fully grown marijuana and forty five thousand six hundred (45,600) seedling during the conduct of operation "Green Guard" in Barangay Licungan, Kawayan, Culliang all of Sugpon, Ilocos Sur and Brgy Badeo and Tacadang of Kibungan, Benguet last January 10, 2009.

During the said operation, the government forces apprehended the marijuana cultivator, identified as Sunty Diliman armed with one (1) home-made 22 caliber rifle. He was immediately transported via helicopter to the headquarters of PDEA for interrogation. The said cultivator revealed that a certain David Lucas, 19 years old and Helwin Bodas, 18 years old, both residence of Brgy Legab, Sugpon, Ilocos Sur and Erwin Bulas are also marijuana cultivators.

The successful discovery of marijuana plantations in various sites of the said barangays by the government forces is a remarkable achievement in the eradication of prohibited drugs in the country.