

13 Judicious Use of Authority

PNP members shall exercise proper and legitimate use of authority in the performance of duty.

Reflection

What are the symbols of our authority as law enforcers? Can we share our story about a time when someone we know or heard of abused their authority as PNP personnel? How did that incident make us feel?

Inspiration from the Holy Bible

"For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go, and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave. 'Do this,' and he does it." (Luke 7:8)

Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

Their prophet said to them, "God has appointed Talut (Saul) to be your king." They said, "How can he have authority over us, when we are more worthy of authority than he, and he was not given plenty of wealth?" He said, "God has chosen him over you, and has increased him in knowledge and stature. God bestows His sovereignty upon whomever He wills. God is Embracing and Knowing. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:247)

"O believers, obey the commands of God, the Messenger and the Holders of Authority. When you fall into disagreement concerning your affairs, refer to the commands of the Lord and His Messenger, if you believe in God and the Day of Judgments. This will be better for you than anything else you might imagine, and conducive to a far better outcome" (Surah An-Nisa 4:59)

Hadith

Abu Hurairah reported: The Prophet (PBUH), said: "Whoever obeys me has obeyed Allah, and whoever disobeys me has disobeyed Allah. Whoever obeys my deputy has obeyed me, and whoever disobeys my deputy has disobeyed me." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Ali reported: The Prophet (PBUH), said: "There is no obedience to anyone if it is disobedience to Allah. Verily, obedience is only for good conduct. In another narration, the Prophet said, "There is no obedience to a created being if it is disobedience to Allah Almighty." (Sahih Bukhari)

How do we show judicious use of authority?.

- a. All authority is given by God from heaven. We must recognize that law enforcement is a profession anchored on fairness, humility and justice. The authority given us as law enforcers must be judiciously used, not abused.

Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory. (Daniel 2:37) Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Romans 13:7)

- b. Lead by example, willingly and competently. Examine our motivation for working and ensure that we are law enforcers by choice, not by compulsion. Practice what we preach. Do not demand of our peers or subordinates something which we cannot demand of ourselves.

Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. (1 Peter 5:3)

Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: Grant us Lord the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.