

Painful to see kids' future taken away by leftists, parents say

MANILA -- Several parents of missing students who were allegedly recruited by leftist groups decried the progressive movements' actions before the Senate, saying it was not the future they want for their children.

In a hearing conducted by the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs on Wednesday, Jovita Antonio said her 17-year old daughter grew up obedient and cheerful, but things changed since she joined a leftist organization.

"Wala na akong alam kung nasaan ang anak ko, isang taon na syang hindi umuwi at hindi namin nakakausap (I have no idea where my child is, it's been one year since she went home and a year since our last contact)," she said.

Mothers of five missing students recounted their ordeal when their children became estranged and lost contact with them.

Three of the missing were senior high school students of state-run Polytechnic University of the Philippines, while one was a student of Far Eastern University and another from the University of the East Manila.

All of them were allegedly recruited by alleged Communist-front organization Anakbayan.

Jovita's husband, Junior, expressed in desperation, "maski text or isang chat wala na, buti pa ang nagdudugs eh nakikita mo pa (There's nothing, not even a text or chat, [I think] it's worse than taking drugs, at least their parents get to see them)".

Committee chair and former police chief, Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa explained that it is "harder to re-

habilitate" those indoctrinated by the communist ideology than illegal drug use.

"Pero 'yung kumunismo, ang utak nyan kung walang proper intervention...hindi mawawala 'yung kanyang pagka-radical na utak. So mas mabigat na kalaban talaga 'yan...(But communism, if there is no

proper intervention, it will be hard to get away from radicalism)," dela Rosa said.

Alarming, upsetting

Gemma Labsan, meanwhile, also broke down as she narrated how the behavior of her daughter changed after attending a training at the University of the Philippines (UP) Dili-

man.

"Na proud ako kasi UP yan eh, tapos ite-train daw sila ng journalism, editor-in-chief kasi sya sa publication nila nung high school. Pero pagkatapos nun hindi na sya nagpapa-hatid kahit umuulan, hindi raw uuwi kasi may training na naman sa Los Banos (I was proud because UP in-

vited her for a journalism training. She's editor-in-chief in their high school pub, [it's her forte]. But after that she would refuse that I drive her to school even if it's raining. She would say no because they have another training in Los Banos)," she said.

She said during the first week of school, her daughter told her that she attended a protest rally on the day of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) with Anakbayan.

Another mother, Relissa Lucena, said her daughter has become stubborn after joining Anakbayan.

"Ang anak ko walang alam sa mundo, first time pa lang siyang lumayo sa bahay namin, hindi pa siya ganun ka exposed. Pero nung first semester nakita ko na 'yung changes. Matigas na siya. Nag-open siya sa akin, Anakbayan na daw siya at lider na siya (My child doesn't know the world yet. It's her first time to be far from us, she's not that exposed. But I saw her change during her first semester at school. She became

hard-headed. She said she's a member of Anakbayan and she's a leader)," Lucena said.

"Sinasabihan ko siya na huwag ka diy-an. Against ako sa ginagawa nila pero hindi naman sa pinaglala-ban nila (I told her not to get involved. I'm not against what they fight for, I'm against with how they do it)," she added.

She said when her daughter started getting home late or would not go home for days, she reported to school and police authorities and talked to her.

Her daughter said she is already a "full-time" member of Anakbayan.

"Sabi niya full-time na siya sa Anakbayan. Nung nalaman niyang nagsumbong ako, sabi niya kalaban na daw ako, huwag ko na daw isipin na may anak siya at ayaw na niyang mag-alaral," Lucena said.

Lucena said her daughter already left their home and her efforts to get her back were unsuccessful.

She said her daughter even called

her an oppressor.

"Nakita ko siya may hawak na placard, ang dugyot niyang tingnan, naka-tsinelas lang. Yung anak ko halos ayaw kong padapuan ng langaw tapos ganun ang gagawin nila (I saw her holding a placard, she looked untidy, only wearing slippers)," she said.

She added that her daughter also became part of a group posting campaign materials for party-list and then-senatorial candidate Neri Colmenares during the May 2019 elections.

Dela Rosa, for his part, also expressed his dismay on state-owned universities and proposed a plan to put a corresponding sanction for allowing communism to corrupt the students' minds.

"The irony of it, these state-owned universities produce rebels. The government's resources are spent on producing radicals, communists," he said, as he called on schools to also check if teachers are responsible for the indoctrination of communist ideology. (PNA)

PNP to assist DOH amid dengue epidemic

MANILA -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday ordered its Health Service to assist the Department of Health (DOH) amid the surge in the number of dengue cases in the country.

PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac said an order was already issued to make all police hospitals ready for possible influx of patients, including policemen and their dependents.

"We have not received any report so far that policemen and their dependents were affected by dengue. But we are now making actions for prevention because once dengue affected any member of the policemen's family, this would definitely affect their job," Banac told reporters in a press briefing on Wednesday.

"So our Chief PNP (Gen. Oscar Albayalde) has already ordered our commanders to render assistance to local health units and hospitals for public awareness program, and to monitor the health condition of all police personnel," he stressed.

Banac said that part of the preparation is to ensure the adequate supply of blood for transfusion and other medicines needed to treat dengue patients.

"All PNP personnel and dependents are encouraged to go to Regional Health Service units for consulta-

tion," Banac said.

Banac also said police personnel are ready to donate blood for civilian patients.

He noted that police hospitals could accommodate civilian dengue patients for emergency treatment and they will be later transferred to regular hospitals.

"We only have limited spaces in PNP hospitals. For emergency cases, they can go to the nearest PNP hospital," he said.

Albayalde also ordered all police commanders to monitor the health condition of all policemen and their dependents amid the declaration of national dengue epidemic in the country.

Following the DOH's declaration of a national dengue epidemic, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año has also enjoined all local government units (LGUs) to act swiftly in preventing dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases by implementing the Enhanced 4S Strategy in their areas.

"Enhanced 4S" stands for (1) search and destroy breeding sites; (2) seek early consultation; (3) self-protection; and (4) say Yes to fogging only in hotspot areas where an increase in dengue cases is registered for two consecutive weeks.

At the community

level, all mayors and barangay officials are urged to spearhead the following activities:

-Activate the Aksyon Barangay Kontra Dengue.

-Synchronize the conduct of the 4 o'clock habit or the simultaneous cleaning of the household and community surroundings, getting rid of stagnant water and other mosquito-breeding sites, and conduct of measures to prevent water stagnation every day, starting at 4 p.m.

-Facilitate chemical intervention, such as spraying and larvicide application or the regular application of microbial or chemical insecticides to water bodies or water containers to kill mosquitoes to larvae and pupae.

-Encourage residents to observe early consultation.

He said the gravity of the dengue situation prompts us to work closely together because the health of our people is at stake.

The DILG Chief said the local government officials are therefore advised to coordinate with their respective DOH Regional Office (Center for Health Development) in carrying out initiatives to prevent dengue. It is also necessary to reproduce and disseminate DOH information materials about dengue to inform and alert the public on how they can help prevent the spread of the disease in their respective communities.

Marikina to open first 'shoe tech school' next year

MANILA -- To boost the shoe industry in Marikina City, Mayor Marcelino 'Marcy' Teodoro on Wednesday announced the launch of the first Shoe Tech school in the country which will be operational in the city in 2020.

"We are targeting to start the construction of the Shoe Tech building two to three months from now. It will be operational in the third quarter of 2020," Teodoro told reporters during a press conference on Wednesday.

Teodoro said the trainors for the Shoe Tech School who trained overseas are now ready to teach aspiring shoemakers.

"Trainors of the Shoe Tech School are already in place. They're trained overseas. Why overseas? It is because our market is global. Ayaw naman nating mapag-iwanan sa (We don't want to be left behind in terms of) style and technology," he stressed.

The local chief executive said the establishment of the Shoe Tech School aims to solve the problem of the country's shoe capital -- the lack of skilled shoemakers.

"The problem is that we don't have enough skilled workers. We want to address this problem that is why we came up with the creation of a Shoe Tech School," he said.

Teodoro said the city government will spend around PHP60 million to build the Shoe Tech School in the compound of the Pamantasan Lungsod ng Marikina which is located in Barangay Concepcion Dos.

"The shoemaking equipment will be provided by the Department of Trade and Industry," Teodoro said.

According to Teodoro, the city government will allow at least 10 percent of the Tech School's total population to be non-residents, but they will be required to work in the city to help its shoe industry. (PNA)