

Answer parents’ claims on missing minors, leftist groups urged

MANILA -- Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde, on Thursday urged communist-linked groups to answer the allegations made by parents of the minors who went missing shortly after being allegedly recruited by their front groups.

This came after one of the parents, Mrs. Relissa Lucena, became emotional as she told the story of her missing daughter, who was believed to have been recruited by leftist groups during a Senate hearing on Wednesday.

"No less than the parents have already talked and they really became very emotional. You could just imagine your child can badmouth you right in front of many people because she was brainwashed allegedly by Anakbayan. This is what I am saying. Anakbayan should answer the allegations of the parents," Albayalde told reporters when sought for a comment.

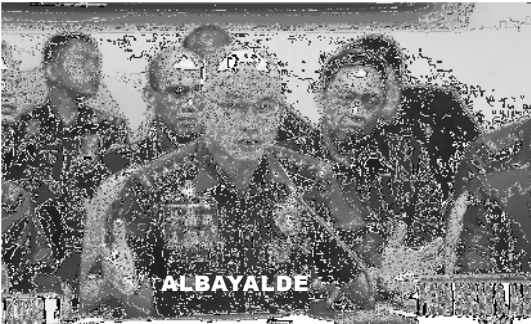
Albayalde also lashed out at the group for pointing to them as the culprits behind the missing children.

"Why are they are saying that this is our fault again? It's not us. They should respond to the parents instead of saying that this is again a ploy of the government or the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and the PNP. That is our challenge to them. Tell where the children of these crying and agonizing parents are," he added.

He assured that they are ready to help the parents find their missing children.

"Yes, and as of August 1, we have filed charges against those identified based on what the parents said. If I'm not mistaken, Mrs. Lucena's daughter has yet to return home. Even the other children haven't returned home yet," he added.

He also expressed



concern that these children might already be hiding in the mountains.

"I'm afraid they might be caught in between the encounter of the AFP, PNP and the rebels. And then the rebels will cry human rights violation later on," the PNP chief said.

Meanwhile, Albayalde also asked Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa to review the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Defense and the University of the Philippines banning soldiers and police inside the university's premises.

The MOU states that the military and police must first seek permission from the UP administration before they are allowed to enter the campus.

During Wednesday's Senate hearing, Lucena, said her daughter has become stubborn after joining Anakbayan.

"Ang anak ko wala lang 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 is not that 'enlightened' 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 pinaglalan-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.

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

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

She 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, meanwhile, expressed his dismay on state universities and proposed a plan to put a corresponding sanction for allowing communism to corrupt the students' minds.

Many Chinese illegally recruited to PH gambling sector

MANILA-- The Chinese embassy in Manila on Thursday claimed that a "large number" of Chinese nationals have been illegally recruited and hired in the Philippine gambling industry.

"In many cases, the employers of Philippine casinos, POGOs (Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations) and other forms of gambling entities do not apply necessary legal work permits for their Chinese employees," the embassy said in a press statement.

"Some Chinese citizens are even lured into and cheated to work illegally with only tourist visas," it added.

The statement came following the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's proposal to transfer foreigners, including Chinese, working for POGOs to hubs solely dedi-

cated to offshore gaming in the country, a move Beijing fears may infringe its national's basic legal rights.

On the issue of illegal Chinese workers in the Philippines, the embassy said the Chinese government does not condone its nationals illegally working in a host country.

"The Chinese embassy solemnly warned that relevant Chinese companies or individuals in the Philippines immediately stop relevant illegal activities, otherwise they will be punished in accordance with Chinese law," it said.

Under Chinese laws, it noted that any form of gambling for Chinese nationals is illegal.

In the Philippines, casinos, and POGOs primarily targeted Chinese citizens as its primary customers, the embassy said.

"The fact that the Philippine casinos and POGOs and other forms of gambling entities are targeting Chinese customers has severely affected the Chinese side," it said, noting a "huge amount of Chinese fund" was being flown "illegally" from China to the Philippines.

"A conservative estimate shows that gambling-related funds flowing illegally out of China and into the Philippines amounts to hundreds of millions of Chinese Yuan every year. There are analysts who believe that part of the illegal gambling funds has flown into local real estate markets and other sectors in the Philippines," the embassy added.

'Modern slavery'

The Chinese side even borrowed a description that many of the Chinese citizens working illegally in the

Philippine casinos or POGOs have been subjected to "modern slavery due to severe limitation of their personal freedom."

"Their passports are taken away or confiscated by the Philippine employers. They are confined to live and work in certain designated places and some of them have been subjected to extortion, physical abuse, and torture as well as other ill-treatment," the embassy said.

"At the same time, dozens of kidnappings and tortured cases of Chinese citizens who gamble or work illegally in gambling entities in the Philippines have taken place," it added.

The embassy also urged the government to address the illegal employment of Chinese nationals and crackdown on crimes affecting them. (PNA)

Schools urged to cooperate with gov't over Reds' recruitment

MANILA -- Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa on Wednesday floated the idea of compelling state-run universities to fully cooperate with security forces to ensure there is no presence of radical groups that indoctrinate students into the communist ideology.

"They should, gobyemo naman gumagastos sa kanila (the government funds them). Government-owned schools ang mga ito (these are government schools) and yet they are producing people who are fighting against the government, napakalaking irony ito (this is a huge irony)," the senator said in a media interview after a Senate hearing where mothers of missing students who allegedly joined progressive groups Anakbayan and Kabataan narrated their stories.

The senator wants the University of the Philippines and Polytechnic University of the Philippines' school administration to allow the army and police to enter the campus for educational forums.

"Ayaw nila papasukin ang police sa kanilang compound; whereby, allowing the communist to recruit students sa loob ng kanilang campus. Pinagbawalan ang government instrumentalities na makapagbigay ng education sa mga bata (They don't want the police to enter their compound; whereby, allowing communists to recruit students inside their campus. They prohibited government instrumentalities to give education to the students)," he said.

Dela Rosa spoke of an internal agreement between the police and school administration to locate missing students.

Recruitment

During the hearing, several parents who testified before the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs, said their children, who were enrolled in PUP, Far Eastern University (FEU) and University of the East, left their homes and did not contact them after joining progressive youth organizations.

The parents said their children joined the League of

Filipino Students, Anakbayan, and Kabataan party-list.

Among the minors, only the child of Gemma Lab-san stayed with the family, while the rest refused to return home.

On August 1, the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group has filed kidnapping and other charges against the recruiters -- Anakbayan national chairman Vencer Crisostomo, and Anakbayan secretary-general Einstein Recedes -- in connection with a "missing" 17-year-old FEU Senior High School student.

Dela Rosa said the parents attended the Senate hearing on their own will and unfazed by threats that they will be labeled as "enemies" of the communist group if they speak up.

"Hindi na sila natatakot kasi itong mga parents na to, parang pinatay na rin sila kasi hindi na nila nakikita, nakakausap ang mga anak nila (These parents do not fear for their lives anymore, it's as if they're already dead because they no longer see or hear from their children)," he said.

'More regular' patrols

While police forces are already allowed to patrol regularly in the campus, PUP president Emanuel de Guzman said the PUP Board of Regents shall convene to authorize this proposal first to avoid "agitating the students".

Dela Rosa, however, said there should be "more regular" police patrols regardless of the reaction of the students.

"I don't care kasi kung palagi na lang tayo takot na mag-agitate wala na mangyari sa gobyerno na ito (if we are always afraid to agitate them, nothing will happen with this government). We will wake up one day realizing that a big chunk of our population has already been lured into this deceit. The government should have the political will to do what supposed to be done to ensure na ang mga bata na ito ay makakapag-aral at makakapagtapos (that the students continue and finish their studies)," the former PNP chief added.