

# NORTH SOUTH JOURNAL

PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN  
YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Taon 10      Blg. 37      AGOS. 26-SET. 1, 2019      P10.00

**MANILA** -- Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa on Thursday said the possible release of rape and murder convict, former Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez, could have been averted if capital punishment still existed in the country.

Dela Rosa made the statement as he renewed his push to pass the proposed law restoring the death penalty following reports of the early release of the former mayor based on good conduct in prison.

Sanchez was convicted for the rape-slay of University of the Philippines Los Baños student Eileen Sarmenta and the killing of her companion Allan Gomez.

"Kung sa akin lang kung ganyan ka-heinous ang krimen na ginawa niya (Sanchez) dapat binitay na siya noon diba, kung may death penalty na noon nabitay na yan... pero wala tayong magawa... (If it were up to me, he should be hanged for committing such

heinous crime. If the death penalty existed then, he should have been hanged. But we can't do anything)," dela Rosa said.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm just on the side of the law. Andyan yang batas (RA 10592) na yan, dapat respetuhin natin, sundin natin (But the law exists, and it must be respected and observed)," he added.

Dela Rosa was referring to the Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) or Republic Act 10592 which deducts an inmate's prison sentence due to good behavior.

Some senators questioned the validity of releasing Sanchez considering that he was sentenced seven counts of reclusion perpetua and was caught with millions worth of shabu in his cell and lavish lifestyle while serving his term.

Dela Rosa said the Department of Justice, through the Board of Pardons and Parole, should explain to

the public the computation of Sanchez's jail term based on the GCTA.

"Well tanungin natin yung Board of Pardons and Parole na nagre-recommend niyan at yung sa loob ng Bureau of Corrections kung paano nila na com-

pute, ang alam ko meron yang computation, may corresponding GCTA yan kung ilan days ang mababawas sa sintensya mo (We should ask the Board of

Pardons and Parole and the Bureau of Corrections how they computed his jail term. I know there is a computation and a corresponding GCTA on how many days will be deducted from your sentence)," dela Rosa said. (PNA)

Mail Permit No. 2C-17-07-528

Office of Entry: Bacoor City, Cavite

Entered as 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

## Panelo denies hand in ex-mayor Sanchez's release

**MANILA** -- Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo denied that he was involved in the possible release of former Calauan, Laguna Mayor Antonio Sanchez, who was convicted for rape and murder in 1993.

Panelo was part of Sanchez's legal counsel when he was accused of raping a University of the Philippines Los Baños student Eileen Sarmenta and murdering her companion, Allan Gomez.

In 1995, Sanchez was sentenced to seven terms of reclusion perpetua or 20 to 40 years of imprisonment.

In a phone interview with Palace reporters, Panelo said he withdrew from the case before Sanchez appealed his case.

"Wala na ako doon e, nag-withdraw na ako (I am no longer a part of the case, I withdrew) 27 years ago so I don't think I will be in any position to make any comment," Panelo said.

Panelo, also the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, said he no longer had any communication with Sanchez but was glad to hear about the news that he would soon be set free.

"Matutuwa ang isang abogado na ang kliyente niya 27 years ago ay makakalaya na. Magkakaroon na ng bagong buhay (An lawyer would be happy to know that his client 27 years ago would soon be set free. Would have a new life)," Panelo said.

"I wish him well kagaya ng lahat ng abogado (just like any other lawyer)," he added.

Asked if Sanchez deserved to be released, Panelo said he and the Duterte administration would always abide by the rule of law.

"Kung (if) the law as it is crafted says that all the inmates who are qualified to be released, then that's what the law says and we have to as we always repeatedly say there's a rule of law and we have always to abide by the rule of law," Panelo said.

Panelo was referring to the Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) or Republic Act 10592 which deducts an inmate's prison sentence due to good behavior.

## PH urged to allow nurses deployment to Libya

**MANILA** -- The Libyan government has asked the Philippines to consider the deployment of more nurses and other Filipino workers to the Mediterranean state, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Wednesday.

The request was made by Libyan Health Minister Ahmed Mohamed Omar who met with Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. in Manila on Tuesday.

In a bulletin sent to reporters, the DFA, through Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Fernandez, said Locsin "promised to look into the request."

At present, Alert Level 4 is in place on Libya's capital Tripoli and its nearby areas, effectively banning deployment as well as the return of at least 1,000 Filipino workers in Tripoli to the state should they decide to return to the Philippines.

During their meeting, Locsin and Omar also discussed the steps made by the Libyan government to address the Filipino workers' concerns over remittances and salaries, which include the delay and nonpay-

ment of salaries of the more than 1,000 Filipino nurses and hospital workers in Libya.

Before his trip to Manila, the Libyan official already assured the Philippine embassy in Tripoli that the Libyan government is addressing the issue and that he is coordinating closely with the Office of the Prime Minister and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labor, and the Ministry of Finance.

Omar also told the embassy that a "comprehensive review of existing policies in the payment and remittance of salaries and benefits of expatriate health workers is now ongoing."

A focal person has been designated to work closely with the embassy in resolving monetary claims of Filipino hospital workers.

"Minister Omar also said representations have been made with the Central Bank of Libya to allow Filipino and other expatriate nurses and hospital workers to remit as much as 70 percent of their salaries," Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Elmer Cato said.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.” – James 4:7