

## Graft raps vs. Lapid, 5 others over fertilizer fund scam affirmed

**MANILA** -- The Supreme Court (SC) affirmed the graft charges against Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid and five others embroiled in transactions forming part of the PHP728-million fertilizer fund scam.

In a 12-page decision dated August 19 released Thursday, the SC through Associate Justice Jose Reyes Jr. ordered that "resolutions (of the Sandiganbayan First Division) dated Sept. 30, 2016 and December 13, 2016, insofar as it dismissed the criminal case against Manuel M. Lapid. Ma. Victoria M. Aquino-Abubakar, Lolita M. Aquino and Dexter Alexander S.D. Vasquez is reversed and set aside".

The ruling sided with the Office of the Ombudsman which earlier sought the reversal of the Sandiganbayan's dismissal of the charges against the respondents.

The Sandiganbayan had dismissed the charges after Lapid and subsequently, the other respondents cited a violation of their right to speedy disposition of the charges against them.

"In sum, the delay becomes inordinate only in the presence of arbitrary, vexatious and oppressive actions or inactions that are discernible from the proceedings. No such delay attended the Ombudsman's proceedings that would warrant the dismissal of the criminal cases against herein respondents," the court said.

The charges arose from the purchase of 3,880 liters of macro-micro foliar fertilizer under the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) Program of the Department of Agriculture without public bidding and which investigators later said was at an overpriced rate by at least PHP1,100 per liter.

On May 2, 2011, the Ombudsman's Field Investigation office - Task Force Abono filed a complaint against several officials of the provincial government of Pampanga, including its then governor, Manuel M. Lapid, as well as officials of Malayan Pacific Trading Corp. (MPTC) and DA Vasque Macro-Micro Fertilizer Resources.

The Ombudsman's

Special Panel for Fertilizer Fund Scam on September 18, 2013, found probable cause to charge six out of the 17 original respondents for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for having disregarded the procurement law and its implementing rules in purchasing the fertilizers.

On Nov. 4, 2015, information was filed before the Sandiganbayan against the six respondents including Lapid, provincial officials and private incorporators of the two corporations.

The court said that while Lapid filed a motion to resolve on November 5, 2012, he moved for the dismissal of the case only on January 8, 2019, or when he was about to be arraigned. This motion was merely adopted by Abubakar, Aquino, and Vasquez on Mar. 9, 2016 and a supplemental motion to dismiss dated April 27, 2016.

"Respondents, thus, allowed a considerable time to lapse before they invoked their right to a speedy disposition of their case," the court said. (PNA)

## Joma denial of hit list shows Red ties: Parlade

**MANILA** -- Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairperson Jose Maria "Joma" Sison's vehement denial of the newly-discovered hit list against ranking government officials demonstrates his strong ties to the insurgency movement, a ranking official of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC) said Friday.

"Why did he react immediately? It should tell us he knows about it because the Central Committee orders were just very recently given, as in a few hours after it was issued," said Major General Antonio Parlade, Jr., who is also Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Civil-Military Operations.

Included in the hit list are Parlade, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperron, Jr., and National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples chair Allen Capuyan.

The plot, codenamed "Oplan Hades", is part of the communist rebels' effort against so-called counter-revolutionaries.

"We exposed this 'Oplan Hades' as early as last year, after the bungled Red October destabilization plot involving Movement Against Tyranny remember? But nobody believed us," he said.

He urged Filipinos not to believe Sison's statement as the CPP founder has always denied every misdeed and atrocities committed by the communist rebels, including the bombing of Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila on August 21, 1971.

"Of course 'Joma' has always denied everything like ordering the bombing of

Plaza Miranda in order to force Marcos to declare Martial Law in (1971). Senator Jovito Salonga would later confirm that it was not Marcos who bombed the Liberal Party rally but 'Joma' Sison," he added.

Aside from ranking government officials, also included in the hit list is former Central Committee member and Military Commission head Ruben Guevarra whom the NTF ELCAC official said is privy to the plot.

"One of those in this new hit list in 'Hades 2', by the way, is Ruben Guevarra, former Central Committee member and head of the Military Commission, and is, therefore, privy to the Plaza Miranda plot. Now he is again being targeted for his active participation in exposing the PM (Plaza Miranda) bombing in the movie clip 'Madugong Singkwenta'. It was released last year to remind people of the bloody trail that the CPP's violence has brought us over 50 years. This December 26, it will turn 51," he added.

Despite Sison's non-admission of his participation regarding the massive purges that killed thousands of CPP-NPA fighters and supporters, a court ruled that he has direct participation in this bloody event, hence an arrest warrant was issued against him in connection to the Inopacan Massacre.

"Did 'Joma' also admit to the thousands of CPP and NPA cadres killed by their own people during the purging? No, he did not. But the court was later convinced of his direct participation, hence the warrant for his arrest for the Inopacan mass killings. In fairness to

Satur Ocampo, he did admit to this mistake in a recorded interview he gave. At least he knows that even as he claims he is a 'progressive' there is blood in his hands," Parlade said.

He added that the hit list prompted communist rebels to beef up the presence of their Special Partisan Unit (Sparu) in urban areas to attack their enemies as stated in the communist rebels' "Limang Taong Programa ng Partido (2017-2021)".

"And what does the 'Limang Taong Programa ng Partido (2017-2021)' says about the Sparu? In the 'Taktikal na Programa - KTKS 01/19/2019 paragraph 4.8, it clearly says that it should strengthen and activate partisan operation in the city. 'Palawakin at pasiglahin ang mga operasyong partisano upang bigwasan, guluhin at parusahan ang kaaway sa mga syudad.' It (is) very clear that 'Joma' wants the CPP-NPA hitmen called Sparu, to attack government/officials to kill, harass, or punish them," he said.

Such strong statements belied Sison's claims that the hit list is just psywar, he said.

"Maybe we should also remind Sison that just last November, he intimated that the Sparu of the CPP-NPA may return 'if there is no more space for patriotic and progressive forces in urban areas'. Maybe your spokesman (could) remind (Joma). The Sparu will be here because their forces have nowhere else to go after most of the provinces, towns, and barangays have declared the CPP NPA as 'persona non grata'," he said.

## PNP orders crackdown vs. name-dropping of erring motorists

**MANILA** -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday ordered all police officers to disregard name-dropping or showing of calling cards of high-ranking officials by erring motorists to get away with their traffic violations.

PNP officer-in-charge, Lt. Gen. Archie Gamboa, made the order noting that policemen tend to get easily intimidated when accosting law-breakers who are fond of flashing calling cards of "friends in high places".

"We will no longer tolerate this. Anyone who will not enforce the law just because somebody tells them that he is a friend of some government big shot will be charged administratively for negligence. Bawal na ang mga nagpapasindak sa mga nagpapakita ng mga calling card (Don't be intim-

idated by those calling cards)," said Gamboa in a statement on Friday.

Gamboa particularly noted that during the Holiday season when Metro Manila traffic turns from worse to worst, many motorists break traffic rules just to get ahead out of the gridlock thinking that their calling cards will always save them.

He added that traffic policemen should also strictly prohibit the use of sirens and blinkers for private individuals or even government officials who are not authorized by law to use these emergency contraptions. He noted that some private individuals use these sirens and blinkers to sneak their way out of Metro Manila's traffic woes.

"Lalo na ngayong Pasako napakaraming pasaway. Kailangan lahat sumunod at kailangan lahat pantay-pantay. (Especially this coming Yuletide season, there are a lot of violators. All must follow and equal before the law.) We cannot eliminate corruption if we cannot even address this "palakasan" system even on simple traffic violations," Gamboa said. (PNA)

### AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE AND ASSUMPTION OF MORTGAGE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CESAR E. CABUNGCAL** who died on September 4, 2017 at Naic, Cavite. That the deceased at the time of his death left a parcel of land with house covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-571139**, situated at Brgy. Sabang, Mun. of Naic, Province of Cavite and containing an area of Forty Square Meters & Fifty Decimeters (40.50), more or less and hereby SELL, TRANSFER and CONVEY unto the said Angelette A. Virtudazo in the sum of One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Pesos (P165,000.00) and has been adjudicated by heirs as per Doc No. 304; Page No. 62; Book No. XXI; Series of 2019 Before Atty. Jameswill M. Resus, Notary Public.

**North South Journal:** November 25, December 2, 9, 2019

### DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY WITH WAIVER AND RENUICIATION OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **YOLANDA NOBLE YAGO** who died on August 3, 2016 at Parañaque City. That the deceased at the time of her death left a house and lot located at Municipality of Dasmariñas, Cavite covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 366767**.

That Ronnie Espiritu Yago and Ron Joseph Noble Yago hereby CEDE TRANSFER and CONVEY unto their co-heir Jolly Janessa Noble Yago the full ownership and possession of the above-described property and has been adjudicated by heirs as per Doc No. 483; Page No. 97; Book No. XXX; Series of 2019 Before Atty. Gabriel B. Octava, Notary Public.

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