

SOLON REFILES MAGNA CARTA OF BENEFITS FOR PDEA PERSONNEL

MANILA -- Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers on Wednesday said he has refiled a bill seeking to institute a Magna Carta of benefits for the officers and personnel of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Barbers, who chaired the House Committee on Dangerous Drugs in the 17th Congress, said he refiled the bill on behalf of all PDEA personnel who risk their lives fighting illegal drugs for the betterment of the country.

House Bill No. 73, which

was filed on the very first day of the 18th Congress, seeks to promote and improve the well-being and economic welfare of PDEA personnel.

If enacted into law, the measure will provide PDEA employees with acceptable living and working conditions, better terms of employment and career opportunities through a well-rationalized career development program, with proper training and schooling to enhance their knowledge, competence, transparency,

respect for human dignity, and commitment to service.

"The PDEA, as the lead agency in the government's anti-drug campaign, exposes its personnel to dangerous situations, especially now that many drug syndicates are affected by the administration's all-out war against illegal drugs," Barbers said.

However, he noted that it is rather unfortunate that despite the critical role PDEA agents play, their economic well-being and professional development are

afforded little attention.

"In return for ensuring that our nation is safe from the dangers of illegal drugs, this bill will ensure that PDEA agents are provided sufficient compensation and accorded avenues for professionalization," the Mindanaoan lawmaker said.

"With a better compensation package and health benefits, it is also hoped that government would be able to attract more PDEA recruits who will serve the country with dedication and honesty," Barbers added. (PNA)

LGUs urged to strengthen clean-up campaign among residents

MANILA -- The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Wednesday urged local government units (LGUs) and barangays to mobilize residents to undertake clean-up drives to destroy all mosquito-breeding areas and stop the spread of dengue.

Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año made the remarks after the Department of Health (DOH) declared a national dengue alert, as he appealed to the LGUs to maintain a clean environment to prevent the incidence of water-borne diseases, especially during the rainy season.

"Lahat tayo ay magtulong-tulong at kumilos na. Huwag nating iasa na lang sa gobyerno ang paglilinis at pagsisinop sa ating mga kapaligiran para maiwasan ang (Let us all join hands and work together. Let us not rely on the government alone in cleaning and making our surroundings pleasant in order to stop the spread of) dengue," he said in a statement.

He also urged LGUs to remove stagnant water in their areas, which serves as breeding ground of mosquitoes.

The DILG chief specifically enjoined LGUs to coordinate with DOH representatives in identifying breeding areas and steps to take in the safe and effective containment of the mosquito population.

"The alarming increase of dengue cases in several areas should prompt LGUs to

act now and act fast in arresting the spread of dengue in their respective areas. We should not allow dengue to debilitate our communities," Año said.

"We must increase our efforts in addressing the dengue infection especially during this rainy season when cases are expected to rise," he added.

On Monday, the health department issued a nation-

al dengue alert after cases of the disease peaked to more than 100,000 as of June.

The DOH identified regions with raised dengue alerts exceeding the epidemic threshold are Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan), Western Visayas (Region 6), Central Visayas (Region 7), and Northern Mindanao (Region 10).

Meanwhile, the Ilocos region (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Calabarzon (Region 4-A), Bicol region (Region 5), Eastern Visayas (Region 8), Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9), Davao Region (Region 11), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) are identified as regions that have exceeded the alert threshold. (PNA)

Duterte vows to wage war vs. corruption until 2022

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte vowed to dedicate his last three years as chief executive in weeding out graft and corruption in the government.

In an interview with Pastor Apollo Quiboloy early Wednesday morning in Davao City, Duterte also vowed to preserve the accomplishment of his administration since he assumed office midway of 2016.

"I'd like to maintain the momentum of (campaign against) graft. You know, Pastor, I will not live forever. But maybe as President I have this -- not everybody is given a chance to address to the people," he told the founder of Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Duterte said everyone in government knows that he has "zero tolerance" for people involved in corruption.

The President said he recently suspended about 64 officials and employees of the Bureau of Customs due to corruption.

Aside from eradicating corruption, Duterte vowed to continue the government's drive against illegal drugs and crime in the country. The chief executive boasted that the drug situation in the country is "quite low" and therefore the crime rate decreased also.

"What I promised was if elected president, I would return the right of the citizens to use the

streets, alleys, parks and all without fear. I think I made my mark very clear," said Duterte, the country's first leader from Mindanao explained.

"There are less drugs on the streets. But I intend to keep it low if not eradicate all. That is one I would like to maintain," he added.

According to latest data from July 1, 2016 to February 28, 2019, at least 123,441 anti-drug operations were carried out by law enforcers, where about 5,281 drug personalities were killed and 176,021 were arrested.

In the same period, the government was able to dismantle a total of 309 drug dens and clandestine laboratories. (PNA)

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PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Prayer for Healing

JESUS, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will. Amen.

O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR US, I TRUST IN YOU!



Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.

3 O'CLOCK PRAYER

"You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

"O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!"

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One have mercy on us and on the whole world." (3x) Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

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