

LGU role vital in effective enforcement of speed limit: DOTr

MANILA— The effective enforcement of speed limits can be achieved with the support from local government units (LGU), an official of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said on Thursday.

“Imagine we have 1,600 LGUs all over the country and Land Transportation Office (LTO) has only 1,500 enforcers. Less than one per municipality kung co-computin natin (if we calculate it). So, we really lack enforcers so we will need the support of the LGUs to make this a sustainable policy, that we will have speed limits along our LGUs,” Undersecretary for road transport and infrastructure Mark Richmond de Leon said.

Land and Transportation Office assistant secretary Edgar Galvante said they are tasked to train LGUs on proper enforcement of road speed limits.

“As far as the LTO is concerned, we are beefing up the enforcement of the agents but kulang nga yung tao ng LTO (the LTO’s manpower is lacking). That’s why through the help of law enforcement agents of the localities, we conduct training so that they can be made deputies of LTO,” Galvante said.

Lawyer Sophia Monica San Luis, executive director of ImagineLaw, private partner of the government in crafting and implementing Joint Memorandum Circular 2018-001, said they have so far trained 300 LGUs on the proper enforcement of speed limits with 1,300 more to go within the next three years.

The JMC aims to prevent road crashes caused by speeding through setting up speed limits on all

roads nationwide.

“In the last year, we’ve had 10 LGUs enact speed limit ordinances and hopefully, we can scale that further with the help of the media so that the LGUs know they are mandated by RA (Republic Act) 4136 to set speed limits,” San Luis said.

Even before the JMC was crafted and implemented, she said some LGUs have already been successful in enforcing speed limits on roads within their jurisdiction.

“There are pockets in the country that have been enforcing speed limits. And one of the most famous examples would be Davao City wherein they effectively implemented their speed limits in the city reducing the number of fatal crashes by 60% just in the first year of implementation,” San Luis said.

Aside from manpower support, de Leon said most of the funding for equipment such as speed guns would come from the LGUs as well.

“When you have an ordinance, of course you will equip yourselves, the LGUs, with the appropriate devices. So that ordinance will allow the LGUs to procure speed limit guns and kung ano pa ang (any other) devices to help them enforce those speed limit ordinances,” de Leon said.

Equipment to be used by the LTO to enforce the JMC are currently under consideration by the office.

“We initiated the procurement of this equipment although medyo pricey ito (it’s a little pricey), we understand the equipment being used by NLEX is about PHP1 million apiece. We’re looking for a cheaper model for this for the purpose of really rating the speed of vehicles plying the different streets,” Gal-

vante said.

ImagineLaw’s executive said one roadblock they are trying to get past in the implementation of the JMC is educating LGUs on the process of creating ordinances on speed limits.

“The LGUs did not know that they were supposed to classify roads in order to set the speed limits. Ano ba yung mga classification natin (What are our classifications)? We have open roads, through streets, crowded streets, city or municipal roads,” San Luis said.

Under Republic Act 4136, open roads will have a speed limit set for light vehicles at 80 kilometers per hour (kph) with heavy vehicles limited to 50 kph, through streets limit light vehicles to 40 kph and heavy vehicles at 30 kph, and crowded streets limit all kinds of motorized traffic to only 20 kph.

In case an LGU fails to implement road speed limits based on the JMC, San Luis said the JMC does not provide for LGUs to be sanctioned or forced to implement road speed limits as it is unconstitutional.

“The unfortunate thing is that under the constitution, our local governments enjoy independence from the national government with respect to ordinances. So hindi po natin sila mapipilit na mag-enact ng ordinance (We won’t be able to force them to enact an ordinance),” she said.

However, LGUs remain accountable to the voting public.

“The only way to really hold them accountable for what they’re supposed to do is through elections. So kung mahalaga po sa tao ito, yun po yung ginagawa namin yung

mga citizen na sila po yung manawagan sa LGU na magpatupad po ng speed limit ordinance (So if this is important to the people, what we’re doing is to encourage citizens to ask their LGU for a speed limit ordinance),” San Luis said.

Dahan Dahan sa Daan

A fast and convenient way to encourage Filipinos to know more about their local speed limits and ask their politicians for a speed limit ordinance is through a website to be launched in September dubbed ‘Dahan Dahan sa Daan (Slow on roads)’.

“In September, we will be launching a website called ‘Dahan Dahan sa Daan’ website wherein we will be uploading all the speed limit ordinances that will be enacted in the Philippines. All the LGUs will have a tag,” San Luis said.

“If you click on the tag, you’ll be able to download a template letter any individual can

Duterte raises reward for capture of cop killers to P3-M

MANILA --The bounty for the capture the killers of the four police personnel in Sitio Yamot, Barangay Mabato in Ayungon town, Negros Oriental on July 18 is now at PHP3 million.

President Rodrigo Duterte bared that he raised the reward for the third time during the inauguration of the Candonga City Bypass Road in Ilocos Sur on Thursday (July 25).

Duterte earlier offered a PHP1 million reward for the capture of the killers but later bared that he would add PHP300,000 to the bounty.

He said he offered PHP 2 million during in his closed-door meeting with governors and mayors at the Manila Hotel on Tuesday (July

23) night, a day after he delivered his fourth state of the nation address (SONA).

“So the other night I raised the first PHP1 million. Then, the other night I was before the governors and mayors, I said ‘I’m raising it to PHP2 million.’ Now, nandito ako (I’m here), I’m raising it to PHP3 million, dalhin mo lang yung ulo ng p*****ina, okay na sa akin, sabi ko (just bring me the head of that son of a b*tch and it’s okay with me, I said). It will keep on increasing and the pressure that goes with it,” Duterte said in his speech.

The President later quipped that it would keep increasing until PHP20 million and he would ask for the head of just “any leader.”

“Kasi pagkatapos niyan, pag mag-abot ng PHP20 milyones ‘yan, sabihin ko dalhin mo na maski anong ulo, basta lider. (Because after that, if it reaches PHP20 million, I’ll say bring any head, as long as it’s a leader’s, bring it here),” he added.

Duterte, meanwhile, narrated how he was aggrieved by the

gipit at nang-api (It was proven that I was just framed up. But after what I had gone through because of false accusations and eventually being acquitted, it is only right for those who falsely accuse others of these crimes to be punished),” he said.

“I could have faced death just because of politics. Kung ginawa ito sa akin, dapat siguruhin na hindi na ito magagawa sa iba (These acts against me should not be done to others),” he added.

Malacañang earlier said President Rodrigo R. Duterte is most likely to certify the passage of the death penalty bill as urgent.

In his 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22, Duterte urged Congress to pass a bill for the restoration of the death penalty for drugs and plunder.

manner by which the cops were killed by suspected members of the New People’s Army (NPA), the Communist Party of the Philippines’ (CPP) armed wing.

The CPP-NPA is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Philippines.

“Yung pulis na nahuli doon sa --- na-hostage nila about seven days ago diyan sa Negros Oriental, binugbog nila, pinaghahampas nila tapos pinatay nila. Sinunog nila parang ISIS. Kaya ako nagalit (The police who were caught there--they were held hostage about seven days ago there in Negros Oriental, they were beaten up, they were being slapped and then killed. They were burned just like how ISIS would do it. That’s why I got angry),” Duterte said.

“Yung pagkamatay ng pulis na pinaghahampas nila, agrabyado ako. So galit ako (The death of the cops wherein they were beat up, it aggrieved me. So I’m angry),” he added.

He said when he used to be mayor of Davao City, he himself would retrieve cops and soldiers held hostage, noting that none of the members of the NPA were hurt.

“Wala naman kamaging sinaktan kung ang mag-surrender ang mga NPA, ni isang kurot (We didn’t hurt any NPA surrenderees, not even one pinch). The military does not allow it,” Duterte said.

“I do not allow it because you will just exacerbate the situation. You will just generate hatred. So lahat nang nag-surrender doon, nag-leader sa ano (So all those who surrendered there), they were treated humanely, decently,” he added. (PNA)

Revilla backs death penalty for plunder, false accusers

MANILA -- Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. on Thursday reiterated his support for the passage of a bill seeking to restore the death penalty for plunder and heinous crimes related to drugs.

Revilla said he would also suggest the imposition of the death penalty against those who falsely accuse others of committing plunder.

“Hindi na kailangan humingi sa akin ng tulong ni Senator Bong Go (Senator Bong Go need not ask for my help). From the get go, I have expressed my strong and personal support (for) capital punishment for drug trafficking and plunder,” he said in a statement.

“If at all, ako ang hihingi ng tulong sa kanya, to support yung aking

panukala na idagdag sa batas, to prevent it from being weaponized for politics, na false accusers should also suffer death (If at all, I should be the one to ask for his support to include in the bill -- to prevent it from being weaponized for politics -- that false accusers should also suffer death),” he added.

Revilla, who was acquitted in 2018 after four years in detention over a plunder charge, said he was not affected by the death penalty proposal because he was found “not guilty”.

“Napatunayan ang ginipit lang ako. Pero sa pinagdaanan ko na inakusahan ng mali at inabswelto at pinawalang-sala, dapat may kaakibat na parusa sa mga nang-