

PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

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MANILA – The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday welcomed the Commission on Human Rights’ (CHR) call for a full investigation into the "collateral damage" incurred in police operations in Rodriguez, Rizal that resulted in the death of four persons, including a three-year-old girl.

PNP spokesperson, Col. Bernard Banac said such investigation would help them determine all circumstances surrounding

“that fateful encounter that claimed four human lives”.
“That is precisely the reason why all police operatives who were involved in that operation had been placed on administrative relief to preclude undue influence in the inquiry,” Banac told reporters when sought for a comment.

Banac, meanwhile, responded by saying that those proven to kill intentionally will be subject to

laws, “while on the side of the law, must observe rigid rules of engagement”.
“From Day 1 of this national campaign against illegal drugs, government has declared war versus drug syndicates and all those involved in the illegal drug trade,” he added.

Last June 29, a three-year-old girl, Myka Ulpina, was caught in a crossfire during police operations against suspected drug

pushers in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Ulpina was among the four fatalities during the operations, along with Senior Master Sgt. Conrad Cabigao, the girl's father Renato Dolorfina and an unidentified companion.

Meanwhile, Col. Resty Damaso, chief of police of Rodriguez, Rizal and 19 other cops were relieved from their posts following the operation.

The 20 policemen have been placed under the personnel and holding unit of the Rizal Provincial Police Office while investigation is ongoing. (PNA)

PH constantly advancing workers' welfare: DOLE

MANILA — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Friday reiterated that the government continues to implement programs aimed at advancing the rights of workers.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III made the statement as he criticized reports citing the Philippines as one of the worst countries in the world for workers.

The DOLE chief noted that Filipino workers enjoy greater protection under the Duterte administration, emphasizing that the government has exerted genuine efforts in advancing their welfare, including the intensified enforcement of labor laws and standard, particularly in ensuring every worker’s right to safe and humane working conditions, and to the security of tenure.

He was reacting on the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index 2019 placing the Philippines “as among the top 10 worst countries in the world for working people.”

“It is unfortunate that ITUC failed to see the consistent efforts of the government in protecting the welfare of Filipino workers. To say that the country has drastically regressed in

protecting the worker's rights is a drastically one-sided finding,” Bello said in a statement.

Bello explained that the cases of “violence and murder, brutal repression of public protests, and repressive laws” among workers are all allegations as the cited accusations are not officially reported as labor-related incidents. At the same time, he mentioned the enacted landmark laws that support the workers’ greater interest, including the Occupational Safety and Health Law, and the Expanded Maternity Leave Law, among others.

Currently, the DOLE is in the process of hiring 500 additional Labor Laws Compliance Officers to complement the assessment of over 900,000 establishments across the country to ensure compliance with the general labor laws and standards.

“DOLE is not sleeping on its job and responsibility to protect the workers, in the same way, that we are mandated to encourage businesses to invest more. We remain committed to providing essence to our mandate despite these unwarranted accusations that undermine the genuine efforts of the administration,” Bello said.

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BI ready to deploy add'l forces at NAIA, Clark for SEA Games

MANILA -- As the Philippines will host the 2019 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in November to December, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) is now preparing to ensure security and deal with the passenger influx at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and the Clark International Airport (CRK).

In an interview with the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Friday, Immigration Port Operations Division chief Grifton Medina said BI will deploy additional forces in both airports, and put additional equipment at CRK.

He said about 72 officers will be graduating soon. They will be trained at NAIA, and will be deployed at the two airports during the SEA Games.

The immigration workforce at CRK, currently close to 100, will be doubled.

"The additional deployment at CRK will be both permanently and temporarily for the SEA Games. We will deploy additional officers permanently because we are anticipating the new Clark International Airport will open by next year. So we really need additional officers," he said.

Medina added that the new airport terminal will be huge, much like the one in Cebu.

"It is very vital for us to have strong coordination with the CRK because we need additional counters there. There should also be special counters dedicated for the athletes," he remarked.

The official added that BI also needs coordination with organizers since it needs to get advance access to the delegates' manifests.

With regard to proper preparation in Clark, Medina said that it basically needs desktops and additional counters.

"We need enough counters for our officers to man. CRK, for now, is small," he reiterated.

Electronic gates (e-gates) are also helpful to ease passenger congestion.

"These will also be helpful as these can be used by our Filipino passengers who frequent CRK. So far, we only have three e-gates there. The space is limited. Of course, we could not occupy a large portion of the arrival area for the e-gates. We still need space for regular counters," he said.

At NAIA, Medina said its officers are used to dealing with thousands of passengers. Of the 1,000 immigration officers across the country, about 600-800, including supervisors and inspectors, are deployed in NAIA, he said.

About 50-60 additional workforce will man the counters at NAIA during the SEA Games, Medina added.

Medina assured that the BI would be ready for the surge of passengers because it deploys a rapid response mechanism.

A rapid response mechanism ensures there is always somebody to man the immigration counters. That means when additional manpower is needed, the secondary inspectors or the TCEU (Travel Control and Enforcement Unit), admin officers and intel officers, could sit in the counters. (PNA)

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