



Interview with Department of Public Works and Highways Region VIII Palo, Leyte Construction Division Chief Engr. Sandy Pua. (DAN DANA0 & OBET DANA0)

Palace to ex-president Aquino: Focus on Mamasapano case

MANILA -- Former president Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III should focus on the possible revival of the Mamasapano case rather than meddle with the Duterte administration’s crack-down on illegal drugs, Malacañang said on Thursday.

Aquino on Wednesday said he found it “confusing” why President Rodrigo Duterte decided to appoint Vice President Leni Robredo as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD) if he did not really trust her.

“He (Aquino) is better off focusing on his case pending before the Sandiganbayan, as well as taking care of his health, than touching on a matter related to the dreaded drug menace that he never gave the attention and importance it deserves during his six-year presidency,” Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

Panelo recalled how it was during Aquino’s term where the drug problem allegedly “ballooned in magnitude” due to his negligence.

In his previous speeches, Duterte has blamed Aquino for being remiss in his job to address the drug problem.

Duterte said his predecessor did not realize the gravity of the drug problem because he simply did not know the magnitude of the issue.

Last week, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) along with former Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) director, incumbent Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, and family of the slain Special Action Force (SAF) 44 commandos, trooped to the Ombudsman to revive Aquino’s criminal case with a Motion to Reopen Investigation.

In the motion, the VACC called on Ombudsman Samuel Martires to pursue the homicide since they have new evidence supporting the filing of reckless

imprudence resulting in multiple homicides against Aquino and others.

‘Trust is earned’

Meanwhile, Panelo said being an elected second-highest executive official of the government did not automatically make Robredo trustworthy.

“Ms. Robredo must, however, understand that one’s election to the Vice Presidency does not automatically clothe the occupant with trustworthiness. Trust is earned,” Panelo said.

Panelo reiterated that Robredo’s “missteps” particularly when she started meeting foreign institutions and personalities who have “prejudged” the drug war and seeking classified information did not earn Duterte’s trust and confidence.

“Trust comes into play only as regards the non-transmission of state secrets that imperils the safety of the Filipino people and the sovereignty of the country,” he added.

He said Robredo’s new task is “a rare chance” to help in the campaign against illegal drugs, instead of

just criticizing the administration.

Panelo said being an anti-drug czar requires competence and creativity.

Robredo, he said, should not be bothered by Duterte’s lack of trust in her with respect to the classified information because she should prioritize performing her duties as an anti-drug czar.

“After all, she is tasked to help end the illegal drug trade in the country and not to get secret information of the government to share the same with her foreign and local peers,” Panelo said.

Panelo said despite petty, divisive, and parochial politicians, Duterte’s primary interest is to put an end to the illegal drug trade in the country.

He noted that it was a “rarity” to find leaders such as Duterte, to give the head of the opposition party a golden opportunity to oversee the drug war.

“What is clear therefore is that PRRD has transcended politics and trust issues that long divided the nation,” Panelo said. (PNA)

4th CPPOC AND PADAC QUARTERLY MEETING



Strongly committed to preserve the peace and order in the community and totally eliminate the drug-related crimes in the province, members of the Cavite Provincial Peace and Order Council (CPPOC) and the Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC) convened to collaborate in the 4th Joint Quarterly Meeting of CPPOC and PADAC held at The Bayleaf Hotel in General Trias on November 15, 2019.

Roll call and acknowledgement of participants was facilitated by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Cavite OIC Provincial Director and Head Secretariat Eloisa G. Rozul. Upon the determination of the quorum, the meeting was called to order by Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Alvin Mojica.

Updates on peace and order situations, internal security, drug clearing updates, road clearing validation, and African Swine Flu were presented by Cavite Provincial Police Office OIC-Provincial Director PCOL Marlon Santos, Commanding Officer 202nd Infantry Brigade Col Alex Santos Rillea, Provincial Officer Philippine Drug-Enforcement Agency (PDEA) – Cavite Billy Viray, Engr. Archie delos Reyes of DILG and Provincial Veterinary Office Head Dr. May Magno, respectively.

In response, Governor Jonvic Remulla pointed out his views on how the provincial government can help on easing the access to information to solve the crimes being committed against any individual as the province strengthens its program on information technology by implementing the free wifi connectivity in the whole province. The governor also echoed his commitment in providing additional police vehicles for police operations and reiterated the initiative of the provincial government in instigating programs that can help in maintaining the peace and order situations in the community. He encouraged the partakers to be vigilant and accountable enough to report any forms of violence arising in their locality to alleviate the task of the enforcers and penalize the persons committing crimes against the law.

Moreover, Mr. Alisxandre Joshua Babaan of the Provincial Planning and Development Office explained the Provincial POPS Plan for 2020-2022 and elaborated the resolution approving the release and utilization of the 2020 confidential fund to finance campaign against illegal drugs and address the issues on peace and order as reflected in the POPS Plan 2020-2022.

PD Rozul on the other hand, presented the resolutions passed during the 3rd quarter meeting, 4th quarter accomplishments of the PPOC and PADAC and the forthcoming activities. She also reported the resolution for the composition of the PPOC Secretariat. She also led the PTF-ELCAC presentation of the 12 ELCAC clusters or line of efforts including situational awareness and knowledge management; local

government empowerment; legal cooperation; strategic communication; sectoral unification, capacity building and empowerment; basic services; poverty reduction, livelihood and employment; infrastructure, resource management and employment; localized peace engagement; peace, law enforcement and development support; E-CLIP and amnesty program; and international engagement.

The event was concluded with the signing of the pledge of commitment by the members of PTF-ELCAC to ensure the inter-agency convergence in the implementation of the framework and to develop a strategic communication, advocacy and peace constituency plans in case of ceasefire, as well as capacity building measures to enable local chief executives and local peace bodies to engage and facilitate local peace engagement or negotiations and interventions.

In attendance during the meeting were local chief executives including Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan, Mendez Mayor Frederick Vida, Amadeo Mayor John Redel Dionisio, GMA Mayor Walter Echevarria, Ternate Mayor Lamberto Bambao, Maragondon Mayor Reynaldo Rillo, SK Provincial Federation President Jerome Napoleon Gonzales, heads and representatives from various offices in the provincial and local government and the members of AFP, PNP, PDEA, and DILG.