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**MANILA** -- The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) has disbursed over PHP26 million to members under its ongoing rebate program.

In a Twitter post on Friday, OWWA Administrator Hans Caddac said a total of Php26,071,683 have benefitted 10,512 members.

The program was launched last month in compliance with Republic Act 10801, or the OWWA Act, which states a rebate should be given to overseas Filipino workers (OFW).

The beneficiaries must be a member of OWWA for at least 10 years and have not availed themselves of any benefit from the agency.

The amount of the re-

bate range from PHP941.25 up to PHP13,177.50 depending on the Filipino worker's number of contributions.

OWWA records show a total of 556,000 of its members, who have made at least five or more contributions as of December 31, 2017, will qualify in the initial implementation of the program.

The agency has allocated PHP1 billion for the rebates.

A total of USD5 is being collected by the OWWA for every contract for both land-based and sea-based Filipino migrant workers.

Qualified members, who would like to avail of the rebate program may visit the OWWA's official web site at [owwa.gov.ph](http://owwa.gov.ph) or call OWWA Hotline 1348. (PNA)

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## DOJ orders probe on Bilibid blast

**MANILA** -- Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra on Friday ordered a formal investigation into reports of an explosion that occurred inside the New Bilibid Prison's maximum security compound that houses violent inmates.

"The DOJ oversight team has directed the Bucor chief to submit a written report and to commence an investigation in coordination with the PNP contingent stationed at the NBP," Guevarra confirmed to newsmen.

"Its an indication of how serious the security problem is inside the NBP," the secretary added.

Based on initial reports, the blast occurred at Quadrant 4 of the NBP maximum security compound while demolition is ongoing around 10 a.m. Friday.

Immediately thereafter, the EOD/K9 team of NCR-PO responded to check the area. During the process, it was disclosed that the cause of the explosion was an improvised explosive device (IED) prompting the EOD team to conduct a thorough search within the area.

NCRPO chief, Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, said explosives were recovered inside the shanties near Quadrant 4.

"After clearing the area, they were able to recover two hand grenades," Eleazar said.

Investigation showed that the explosion site was occupied by violent extremist offenders from the Abu Sayyaf Group, Maute Group, the Rajah Solaiman Group, Jemaah Islamiya, and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. (with reports from Christopher Lloyd Caliwan/PNA)

## DILG chief to submit list of PNP chief bets to PRRD

**MANILA** -- Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said on Friday he will submit three to five names of police officials whom he will recommend to President Rodrigo Duterte as candidates for the next Philippine National Police (PNP) chief.

"By tradition, the President asks the outgoing chief PNP for recommendations. I am also submitting my recommendation next week. Upon speaking with the President and Senator Bong Go, the qualifications are first, seniority; second, merit or reputation; third experiences on his performance previous assignment," Año, who is also chair of National Police Commission, (Napolcom) told a media interview.

The DILG chief added that he will submit his recommendation letter on October 18.

PNP chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde who will bow out of the service upon turning 56 on November 8, is under fire for his alleged interference in the case of 13 erring police officers who were involved in the reselling of seized illegal drugs from a raid in Mexico town in Pampanga in 2013.

Albayalde, who was Pampanga provincial police chief at the time of the assailed anti-drug raid, was relieved from his post due to command responsibility.

Asked if he already talked to Albayalde, Año said they only talked about the PNP's drive against scalawags and the smooth transition when the police official retires.

"Nagkita kami (We met) last Tuesday before the hearing of Senate. We didn't discuss anything about resignation. If he intends to resign, he should convey it to the President, not to me," he said.

Albayalde earlier shrugged off calls for his resignation, noting that he still enjoys the trust and confidence of President Rodrigo Duterte despite allegations dragging him to the "ninja cops" issue.

Albayalde said it would be up to the President to decide his fate.

Duterte earlier said dismissing a top official should be done "for a good reason" and with "enough proof."

The President assured that procedural due process would be followed and that he would be "fair". (PNA)

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