

PRRD awaits DILG probe results amid new info vs. Albayalde

MANILA — Mala-cañang on Thursday said President Rodrigo Duterte will still await the results of the investigation before deciding on the fate of Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde, amid new revelations against the top cop on his alleged involvement in the recycling of illegal drugs in 2013.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo reiterated that the President will decide based on Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año's recommendations after the probe.

"Hayaan mo yung Senado magimbestiga, magkaroon sila ng findings, hayaan mo si DILG Sec magimbestiga (Allow the Senate to investigate, get findings, allow the DILG Secretary to investigate) and the President will act on them," Panelo said in a Palace briefing.

Panelo said he does not know whether the President would be more inclined to dismiss Albayalde following this new revelation.

"The Office of the President says through the President himself, I will wait for the findings and recommendations of DILG" Panelo said.

"Unless there is a statement to the contrary, the presumption is it remains the same," he added.

During a Senate hearing on Wednesday, former Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) deputy director, Col. Rudy Lacadin claimed Albayalde tried to intervene in the controversial 2013 drug operation in Pampanga when the latter was provincial police chief.

Lacadin said Albayalde called him up when he was asked to investigate the 2013 drug operation.

"Sabi niya (Albayalde said), I don't know if

jokingly, but he said, 'Actually Sir kaunti lang naman ang napunta sa akin diyan (only a few of that went to me)'," Lacadin quoted Albayalde as saying.

Albayalde denied Lacadin's revelation, saying other generals including former CIDG chief and now Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong were gang-ing him up.

anelo has repeatedly assured there would be "no sacred cows" in the Duterte administration.

DOJ summons 'ninja cops' in 2013 Pampanga drug raid

MANILA -- State prosecutors on Thursday subpoenaed 13 police officials tagged in the legislative inquiry into the recycling of seized illegal drugs in Pampanga in 2013 where Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde, was formerly assigned as provincial police director.

Summoned were Major Rodney Raymundo Louie Juico Baloyo IV, Capt. Joven De Guzman Jr., Master Sergeants Jules Maniago, Donald Roque, Ronald Santos, Romel Vital, Al-

cindor Tinio, Eligio Valeroso; Staff Sergeants Dindo Dizon, Gilbert De Vera, Encarnacion Guerrero Jr., Dante Dizon and Corporal Anthony Lacsamana.

The subpoena is in connection with Justice Department Order No. 528 dated October 7 issued by Secretary Menardo Guevarra requiring the 13 police officers to participate in the "reinvestigation of the complaint and to submit any additional evidence on October 16".

The subpoena was signed by Senior As-

stant State Prosecutor Alexander Q. Suarez and Assistant State Prosecutors Josie Christina T. Dugay and Gino Paolo S. Santiago.

The case involves the automatic review of the dismissal of the case by the Pampanga prosecutor against the policemen who were facing charges in violation of Republic Act 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) for misappropriation, mis-application or failure to account for seized drugs, and planting of evidence. (PNA)

you find it hard to commute, then don't go to work)."

"I never said this. And I'm actually on my way to PNP Camp Crame to report/file a complaint on this. Mag-ing babala sa mahilig manira ng kapwa at sa mga mahilig magpakalat ng fake news (Let this be a warning against those fond of character assassination and distributing false news)," Pialago said.

Pialago said the Facebook page deleted the said post but she will continue to pursue the identities of those responsible.

"Ipapahanap ko pa din mga administrators nito. I suggest na kapag biktima ng fake

news mag report sa mga otoridad (I will still have the administrators found. I suggest to those victimized by false news to report the incident to the authorities)," Pialago said.

CYBER LIBEL FILED FOR PUBLISHING "FAKE NEWS." MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialago responds in a post which tagged her telling commuters to not bother going to work if they find it hard to travel. On Wednesday, Pialago filed a cyber libel complaint against the administrator/s of the Facebook satire page. (Screenshot courtesy of Celine Pialago)

The complaint-affidavit indicated a friend

DOH budget cut could lead to layoff of over 7K nurses

MANILA — The proposed PHP9.39-billion cut in the budget of the Department of Health (DOH) for 2020 could result in job losses for some 7,107 public health nurses next year, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto warned on Thursday.

Recto said one of the major programs to be severely affected by the DOH budget cut is the Human Resource for Health Deployment Program (HRHDP).

He said the HRHDP has a total budget of PHP12.37 billion for this year while a measly PHP2.45 billion is proposed for the program next year, which entails a deep PHP6.05 billion cut.

"7,107 public health nurses ang nangan-gambang mawalan ng trabaho sa susunod na taon. Kasing dami ng mga isla sa ating kapu-luan (7,107 public health nurses could possibly lose their jobs next year. The number is as many as the islands of our country)," Recto said.

"If not reversed, it will turn us into an archipel-

ago of dismissed nurses. It is a kind of hospital discharge that is the most unkind," he added.

Recto said the PHP2.45 billion would only cover the continuous employment of 3,854 nurses, out of the 17,293 deployed this year.

He, however, noted that there is a pledged augmentation of PHP7 billion from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF), which means that 6,322 nurses could be funded by the MPBF and the potential total comes up to 10,186 hired and rehired in 2020.

The senator warned that the cut would not only affect nurses but also dentists from the current 202 to zero next year and also technologists from 597 to zero in 2020.

"Lahat-lahat, tinataya ng DOH na 10,921 na health personnel who are currently employed by the program ang masisisante sa 2020 (All in all, the DOH could potentially lose around 10,921 health personnel currently employed by the program in 2020)," he

said. "This is equivalent to 4 in 10. A plague-like 40 percent casualty rate," he added.

The Senate leader suggested increasing the HRHDP budget to PHP16 billion in 2020 and requiring the additional allocation of PHP6.55 billion to the program's PHP9.45 billion indicative budget.

"We have to do this because the health professional deployment and dispersal program is one of the lynchpins of the Universal Health Care (UHC) program. Thus, the UHC should be launched with a great leap forward in the number of doctors, nurses, dentists, midwives, medical technologists, and other health workers to unserved and underserved, poor and far-flung areas," he said.

"The usual pretext of absorptive and procurement problems on why the cuts have to be inflicted, and why critical personnel has to be excised from the communities they serve, does not apply in this case," he added. (PNA)

dia pages.

He said the subject social media accounts already seemed to be fictitious.

"Yung mga identity ng tao dito, naka-hide so 'yun 'yung ating ini-imbestigahan ngayon, kung sino 'yung (The identity of the person here is hidden so that is what we are investigating now. Who is the) administrator," Gamboa said.

Gamboa also warned those who will publish fake news to stop as police will track them down and apprehend them. (with reports from Christopher Lloyd Caliwan/PNA)

of Pialago tagged her on the post with the statement allegedly declared by her.

"The said statement is utterly baseless and fictitious. I completely and vehemently deny having declared/stated such," Pialago said in the affidavit.

She added that the post was shared on Facebook "solely for the purpose of discrediting my reputation and credibility as MMDA spokesperson."

Pialago said the defamatory post resulted in her becoming a subject of "public ridicule, hatred, and social bashing."