

Albayalde won't quit as PNP chief

MANILA -- Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde on Wednesday said he has no intention to resign from his post, noting that he still enjoys the trust and confidence of President Rodrigo Duterte despite allegations dragging him to the “ninja cops” issue.

“Abogado ang ating President hindi po yan nagde-decide based on accusations as he also served as a fiscal.) He acts on the basis of evidence, kaya sabi niya (that's why he said) he will leave that up to Secretary (Eduardo Año) of DILG (Department of

the Interior and Local Government). Alam nyo naman ang ugali ng ating Pangulo pag talagang ayaw ka na niya, ayaw ka na niya (You know the President's attitude. If he doesn't like you, he really doesn't like you),” Albayalde said in a radio interview.

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

The 13 erring cops were ordered dismissed but the penalty was reduced to demotion after a motion for reconsideration was filed on March 14, 2016.

Albayalde, who is up for mandatory retirement on November 8, said it would be up to

the President to decide his fate.

“I will wait for the President's decision and I will wait for (Interior) Secretary (Eduardo) Ano's decision,” Albayalde said in a separate television interview.

“Whatever they say, as I have said, I am expendable,” he added.

He said this attack against him affects the PNP as a whole, including the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

“It also affects the campaign against crimes and corruption. These attacks are directed against our reputation, including me, who leads the war on drugs. You be the judge. See it for yourselves,” the PNP chief said.

Meanwhile, PNP spokesperson, Brig.

Gen. Bernard Banac said there is no need for a loyalty check among their ranks.

“We do not see the need for a loyalty check for now. The whole PNP is in full support of the leadership and we are supporting our President as the Commander-in-Chief,” he told a press briefing on Wednesday at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Banac said while many police officers are saddened by the recent events, they continue to fulfill their mandate.

On Tuesday, President Duterte said he will await results of investigations by the Senate and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año before deciding on whether or not to fire Albayalde over his alleged involvement in the ninja cops issue. (PNA)

French submarine ‘fits’ PH Navy requirement

MANILA -- The French-made diesel-electric submersible, the Scorpène, is very ideal for the Philippine Navy's submarine requirement, PN flag-officer-in-command, Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad said Wednesday.

This is because the proposal of the company building the submarine fits the requirement of the PN due to its stealthy design, and good weapon and sonar capabilities.

While these characteristics are also found in comparable submarines like Russia's Kilo-class, Empedrad said the Russian model is very large and expensive for the PN to acquire and operate.

“We are continuously studying this and then hopefully we finalized what is our preference and then the budget will come out so we can bid it,” the PN chief emphasized in an interview with reporters.

It is also possible that the project will be funded through government-to-government procurement, Empedrad stressed.

The Navy chief, however, clarified that the French-made submersible is not yet the preferred platform even if it fits the PN's requirements.

ments.

“Hindi ko sinabing preferred pero sa ngayon yung requirements namin, 'yung proposal nila (It does not mean that we prefer it but for now, as for our requirements, it) fits the requirements of the PN. But we continue to request for proposals from other company as well. So merong proposal ang (South) Korea, I think may proposal 'yung Germany (South Korea has a proposal. I think Germany has a proposal too),” Empedrad said.

He also added that they are still processing the requirements for the project.

“H o p e f u l l y , makapagbigay ang Congress ng budget para mabili na (the Congress can provide the budget so we can buy immediately). I think kung mabili namin 'yung (if we are able to buy the) submarine, it serves as a strategic, psychological deterrence (against enemies),” the PN chief said.

Initially, Empedrad said the PN is planning to acquire two but pointed out that ideal numbers for these undersea vessels are six in a fleet.

The Scorpène-class submarines are

a class of diesel-electric attack submarines jointly developed by the French Direction des Constructions Navales and the Spanish company Navantia, and now by Naval Group. It features diesel propulsion and additional air-independent propulsion.

The Scorpène can be armed with a variety of torpedoes, missiles and mines and it has range of 6,500 nautical miles and is capable of speeds of 12 to 20 knots.

Earlier, Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that should the PN submarine acquisition program push through, it will be acquired via government-to-government procurement.

“The submarine, if we finally decide to buy them, will be on a government-to-government procurement and under a loan so that we do not need a large upfront capital outlay,” he added.

The DND chief also said they are looking at proposals made by Russia, South Korea, Germany and France for the PN submarine acquisition program. (PNA)

Marikina River ASF-free: Teodoro

MANILA -- Marikina City Mayor Marcelino “Marcy” Teodoro on Wednesday declared the Marikina River as free from the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus.

“Based on the ASF virus analysis of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, (the) Marikina River tested negative for ASF,” Teodoro told reporters.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) took water samples from three stations – the Circulo Verde in Pasig; the boundary of Jesus dela Peña and Sta. Elena; and Bayabas St. in Barangay Nangka.

The clinical laboratory report given to the local government of Marikina was signed by LLDA General Manager Jaime Medina.

Last month, a total of 65 pig carcasses were retrieved from the Marikina River. The carcasses started to surface on September 12, despite the city having

no piggery or slaughterhouse.

“Maybe because we were able to quickly retrieve the carcasses of the pigs, that's why the level of contamination is not so much. We were able to remove 65 carcasses from the river,” the local chief executive said.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) told Teodoro that the fish in the city's river are safe to eat.

The BFAR report showed that while pollutants in the Marikina River have increased, they were still within the regulatory limit of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The BFAR tested the samples for Staphylococcus Aureus, Ecoli, and Salmonella bacteria.

“The pollutants increased because the biochemical oxygen demand increased. But the fact remains that the fish tested for Ecoli and Staphylococcus Aureus, (was) below

the regulatory limit. Meaning, it is safe to consume and eat fish from (the) Marikina River,” Teodoro said.

“Salmonella ay absent sa water, wala siya. Iyong Staphylococcus Aureus, kapag mayroon, it causes gastroenteritis. Ang Salmonella naman, typhoid ang makukuha (Salmonella is absent in the water. Staphylococcus Aureus causes gastroenteritis. Salmonella, meanwhile, causes typhoid fever),” he added.

On Tuesday, the mayor met with some 300 fishermen of the Marikina River to tell them about the good news -- the lifting of the fish ban.

“I lifted the fish ban based on the report conducted by BFAR. Lyon ang naging basis ko (That was my basis) to lift the fishing ban. Fishermen and residents are now allowed to fish and swim in the river,” the mayor said.

The probe, which seeks to find where the pig carcasses came from, is still ongoing.

Teodoro assured that people behind the dumping of pig carcasses in the Marikina River would be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

Earlier, Teodoro said the city has provided the Department of Agriculture (DA) with a “lead of information” that could possibly point to the source of the dead pigs.

“(The city is) serious in filing cases against the culprit, whoever would be found in violation of (the) clean water act, and sanitation law,” said Teodoro.

“Magpa-file kami ng civil case para makacclaim ng damages for the man-hour, equipment, manpower na naconsume ng city sa pagki-clear at paglilibing ng mga baboy na 'yan (We will file a civil case so that we can claim damages for the man hour, equipment, manpower the city consumed for clearing and burying the pig carcasses),” he said.

He noted that the culprits were civilly lia-

No Filipino hurt in 6.8 magnitude quake in Chile

MANILA- No Filipinos in Chile were reported hurt, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Wednesday days after a

ble and criminally accountable because “it can be considered as illegal dumping of pollutant.”

Meanwhile, the DA has deployed a team from the Bureau of Animal Industry to Montalban, Rizal to investigate the improper dumping of dead pigs retrieved from the Marikina River. (PNA)

magnitude 6.8 earthquake rocked the Latin American state.

In a bulletin, the agency said it continues to monitor the earthquake's aftermath that struck off the coast of Chile on September 29 around 10:57 a.m. (Chile time).

After the earthquake, representatives of the Philippine embassy in Santiago monitored the situation on the ground along with leaders and coordinators of Filipino communities to ensure the safety and welfare of Filipinos in Chile.

Ambassador to Chile Ma. Teresita C. Daza confirmed that no Filipino was directly affected by the earthquake.

“The embassy will continue to monitor the situation in the area and is ready to provide assistance as needed,” the DFA said.

While the tremor was strong, no casualties or impacts on basic services have been reported.

According to the DFA, there are an estimated 860 Filipino migrants in Chile to date. (PNA)