

DILG: 42 barangay officials now facing criminal charges for SAP anomalies, an increase of almost 80% May 21, 2020

The number of barangay officials who are facing charges before the Prosecutor's Office of the Department of Justice for alleged anomalies in the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program financial aid leaped by almost 80 percent in a matter of three (3) days, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that there are now 42 barangay officials who are facing criminal charges for SAP pay-out irregularities as of May 20, 2020, a huge jump from the 23 officials who were earlier charged criminally last May 17, 2020. The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group filed the criminal cases upon orders of Año.

"Seryosohan po ito. Nalalapit na ang paghuhukom para sa mga tiwaling opisyaes ng mga barangay. Hindi po titigil ang ating kapulisan hanggat hindi mapapanagot sa batas ang mga kagaya nila," he said.

The DILG Chief said "splitting" is among the top complaints leveled against erring barangay officials who reportedly divide the SAP cash aid of one family allegedly to benefit other families.

"Malinaw ang batas at ang polisiya ng DSWD na ang SAP cash aid ay para lamang sa pamilya ng nakalistang SAP beneficiary. Sapat lamang iyon para sa kanila at mahigpit na pinagbabawal ang paghahati-hati nito," he said.

Barangay Captain Gary Remoquillo in San Pedro City, Laguna is now in hot water after supposedly splitting the SAP cash incentives among the residents, a practice which was allegedly done following the procedures of nearby home owners associations (HOAs) in the area.

A similar incident was also reported in Brgy. Batang, Irosin, Sorsogon where Punong Barangay Omar G. Guban, Junel G. Guban, and Barangay Health Worker (BHW) Girlie Prejas reportedly asked the SAP beneficiary to return P2,000 from the P5,000 cash assistance so that this may allegedly be given to those not included in the list of SAP beneficiaries.

In Manito, Albay, Brgy Councilor Ma. Dely Ala allegedly deprived the complainants half of the amount of their SAP cash assistance allegedly to benefit those who were not included in the master list of beneficiaries. Barangay officials in Brgy. Nati, Maasin, So. Leyte; Brgy. Jordan, Villaba, Leyte; Barangay Luzong, Manabo, Abra; Brgy, Mariblo, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City; Brgy. Old Balara, Quezon City are also in a similar sticky situation because of alleged "splitting" of SAP cash assistance.

Aside from splitting, getting a cut from the SAP financial aid of beneficiaries also emerged as a top complaint against some barangay officials.

"Sa panahon ng krisis, naisipan pa ng mga barangay officials na ito na kumuha ng commission o tara mula sa SAP beneficiaries. That is corruption at its finest. Hindi natin ito palalampasin," said Año.

Forty-one-year-old Marcialo Mendoza Y Amul, a barangay Ex-O in Olongapo City is currently detained for reportedly asking P3,000 from a SAP beneficiary so that this may allegedly be given to barangay officials. Meanwhile, Barangay Captain Ramon S Jardin, Brgy. Secretary Stephen Jalandon, Purok President Corazon Latoza, and Liaison Officer Rose Jean Estador of Brgy. Feliza, Bacolod City allegedly took back P4,000 from the P6,000 financial aid received by the SAP beneficiaries.

Punong Barangay Rey Cabian and officials of Quimloong, Bucay, Abra are also facing criminal charges for alleged conspiracy in illegally collecting their "share" of cash assistance from the SAP beneficiaries.

Suspect Ivor John Laug-laug Casinas of Bansalan, Davao del Sur was arrested during an entrapment operation after he was caught in the act of accepting P1,000 marked money from a SAP beneficiary. Said suspect has been allegedly soliciting money from qualified SAP recipients.

Alleged Nepotism

Meanwhile, DILG Spokesperson and Undersecretary Jonathan E. Malaya said that nepotism is also a big no-no in the distribution of SAP financial aid just like what happened to Barangay 11 Zone 2 District 1, Tondo, Manila City. Barangay chairman Leonardo "Leo" Recto y De Jesus is now facing criminal charges for allegedly single-handedly identifying the beneficiaries who are his close friends and relatives and denying the said financial aid to qualified barangay residents.

A barangay secretary and a barangay treasurer in Tallungan, Aparri, Cagayan are also facing charges for allegedly including themselves among the SAP beneficiaries when they are disqualified from the SAP since they are local government officials.

"Sa pagbibigay ng ayuda, dapat hindi basehan ang pagiging kamag-anak, kapamilya or kaibigan. Ang SAP ay para sa mga tunay na nangangailangan, hindi sa mga katropa," he said.

Malaya said that the PNP-CIDG has processed complaints from a total of 374 complainants against some 155 suspects from April 1 to May 19, 2020. Majority of these suspects are barangay chairpersons and their associates. There are also numerous complaints received against barangay councilors, barangay secretary or treasurer, municipal councilor, Barangay Health Workers (BHW), Purok Leaders/Home Owners Association (HOA) Presidents, Liaison Officer, DSWD Social Worker, SK Chairman, and Day Care Teacher.

Cases for violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and RA 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act were filed by the PNP-CIDG

against these barangay officials.

Año recently transferred the investigation of graft and corrupt practices against Barangay Officials from the DILG field offices to the PNP-CIDG to expedite the investigation and the filing of criminal charges. On the other hand, barangay officials facing complaints which are administrative in nature will still be issued show cause orders by the DILG and investigated by DILG field units for filing in the Office of the Ombudsman.

**DILG: 23 brgy officials now facing criminal charges for alleged SAP anomalies, 110 more under case-build up
May 18, 2020**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) today said that 23 barangay officials are now facing criminal charges for various alleged anomalies in the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) after the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group filed charges against them before the Prosecutors Office of the Department of Justice.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said the PNP has already filed 12 criminal cases against 23 barangay officials, four (4) more cases will be filed in the next few days, while 110 barangay officials are currently under "case build-up" after a total of 318 complainants nationwide reported graft and corrupt practices against them.

"Sunod-sunod na ang pagsampa ng kaso ng PNP-CIDG laban sa mga tiwaling opisyal ng barangay at sa kanilang mga kasabwat sa mga anomalya sa pagbibigay ng SAP. Puspusan na rin ang imbestigasyon at case build-up para masigurong makakalaboso ang mga walang-hiyang tao na ito na nakuha pang manggantso sa mga mahihirap nating kababayan," Año said.

He said most of the cases involved anomalies committed by punong barangays, barangay kagawads, barangay treasurers, barangay secretaries, barangay employees, purok leaders, and even social workers.

Cases for violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and RA 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act were filed by the PNP-CIDG against these barangay officials.

The DILG Chief recently transferred the investigation of graft and corrupt practices against Barangay Officials from the DILG field offices to the PNP-CIDG to expedite the investigation and the filing of criminal charges. On the other hand, barangay officials facing complaints which are administrative in nature will still be issued show cause orders by the DILG and investigated by DILG field units for filing in the Office of the Ombudsman.

He said the PNP is now hard at work in pursuing the investigations and the filing of cases especially now that the government is set to release the second tranche of the SAP emergency subsidy for low-income families later this month.

"Nalalapit na ang pamimigay ng 2nd tranche ng SAP kaya hindi natin hahayaang makapanloko pang muli ang mga ito. Nakatutok ang kapulisan sa mga kasong ito dahil ayaw nating mas lalo pang maagrabyado ang mga SAP beneficiaries," he said.

Splitting, relatives in masterlist, etc.

DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan E. Malaya said the anomalies committed by the barangay officials range from splitting, falsification of the masterlist, getting a "cut" or "tara" from the SAP beneficiaries, among others.

Malaya expressed disappointment that the national government and the people counted on the concerned barangay officials to be their anchor and support in this time of pandemic but "they were like leeches who suck the blood out of the government's SAP assistance."

"Umasa ang taong bayan na sila ang magiging sandigan nila sa panahon ng pandemya pero binigo nila ang mga mamamayan. Para silang linta na hinigop ang tanging pag-asa ng mga tao ngayong Covid-19," he said.

In Bacolod City, a punong barangay, barangay secretary, purok president and liaison officer to the barangay allegedly connived and took back P4,000 each from the possession of 7 SAP beneficiaries after receiving their P6,000 individual cash aid.

A similar incident was reported in Peñablanca, Cagayan by a SAP beneficiary who filed a complaint against a barangay kagawad for demanding for the return of P4,000 from the P5,500 that she received for the reason that the kagawad was the one who caused the inclusion of the victim in the SAP master list of beneficiaries.

Splitting of SAP assistance and politics in choosing SAP beneficiaries were also noted in several areas of the country.

In San Policarpio, Eastern Samar, a barangay official is under probe for delisting from the master list of beneficiaries those who did not support him during the last elections. On the other hand, a Brgy Chairman in Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur is the subject of a complaint for selecting SAP beneficiaries who are not qualified under the SAP and using fictitious names in the list of beneficiaries.

In Tondo, Manila, a barangay chairman is the subject of the complaint of five (5) individuals who claimed that the punong barangay single-handedly identified the SAP beneficiaries who are mostly his close friends and relatives to the detriment of other qualified beneficiaries.

"Mayroon pa ngang insidente sa Pasay na isinama diumano ng punong barangay sa listahan ang kanyang mga empleyado sa laundry shop sa listahan ng SAP beneficiaries at pagkatapos ay pinapirma na suweldo daw nila iyon," Malaya said.

In Lapu-Lapu City, a social worker is under investigation for facilitating the inclusion of her four (4) relatives, an in-law, and her son's girlfriend in the list of SAP beneficiaries even if they are not qualified. Similarly, in Cebu City, a barangay health worker is the subject of a complaint after he included his in-laws in the master list even if they are allegedly not qualified.

"Hindi po makakalusot ang mga tiwaling opisyal ng barangay na ito. Sisiguraduhin natin na pananagutan nila ang kanilang ginawa sa mga tao," said Malaya.

43 mayors to be given show cause order for poor SAP payout accomplishment

May 14, 2020

Forty-three mayors will be given show cause orders by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for having poor performance in the distribution of the emergency cash subsidy under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) to low-income families in their localities.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año that these 43 local chief executives (LCEs) will be made to explain why they had poor performance despite the two (2) extensions of the deadline given to local government units (LGUs) with the latest deadline ending on 12 midnight of May 10.

“While the vast majority of the LGUs were able to distribute their SAP before the deadline leading to a national pay-out rate of 97% yesterday, may ilan pa rin na naiwan, thus, the DILG and the public deserves to know why they failed to complete their distribution,” he said.

“Maglalabas na tayo ng show cause order sa mga naiiwang 43 mayors nationwide dahil sa bagal ng pagbibigay ng ayuda sa kani-kanilang mga constituents. Kasi nga meron pa tayong 3% na mga family beneficiaries ang hindi pa rin nakakatanggap as of Wednesday,” he said.

He said that the 43 LGUs had 79% and below accomplishment rate as of the final deadline set on May 10 midnight. Eleven of these mayors are in Western Visayas, 8 are in MIMAROPA, 5 in Central Visayas, 4 in the Davao Region, and 4 in the National Capital Region.

Local government units (LGUs) that had poor distribution rate and did not meet the May 10 deadline also include 2 in Ilocos Region, 2 in Cagayan Valley; 2 in CALABARZON, 2 in Eastern Visayas, 2 Northern Mindanao, and 1 Central Luzon.

PNP handles SAP graft and corruption cases

DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya for his part clarified that graft and corruption cases related to the handling of the SAP fund will now be investigated by the Philippine National Police (PNP) - Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and no longer by the DILG field offices.

He said that the Año has decided to transfer the investigation of corrupt practices of barangay officials of SAP from the DILG field offices to the PNP CIDG field offices for the immediate filing of cases since the CIDG has more investigators than the DILG field offices.

“Iyong mga tara, kaltas, splitting at pare-parehas ang pangalan ng nakatanggap ng SAP ay CIDG na ang mag-iimbestiga niyan. Ngunit kung mga violations of social

distancing, tinolerate ni kapitan iyong tupada, nagkaroon ng parade o naging pabaya si kapitan sa mass gathering `yan po ang may show cause kasi administrative case `yan,” he said.

“Si Sec. Año will not tolerate a single instance of graft and corruption. `Pag may `tara’ (corruption system), may kaltas, merong splitting, pulis na po ang pupunta sa inyo at kung sakaling caught in the act kayo, aresto na po kayo kaagad,” he added.

The DILG Spokesperson said that the public may participate in validating the list of beneficiaries of SAP in their communities by checking the list posted in barangay halls which is also a requirement for LGUs to get the 2nd tranche of SAP to be downloaded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

“Iyong compliance ng mga barangay sa pagpaskil ay mataas, 97% ng lahat ng barangay pinaskil ang mga listahan ng kanilang mga benepisyaryo. Kaya nakikita ng mga kababayan natin kung sino ang tiwali dahil makikita mo sa listahan kung mayroong anomalya,” he said.

**DILG: 183 brgy execs iimbestigahan ng PNP dahil sa katiwalian diumano sa pamamahagi ng cash aid
May 12, 2020**

Sinabi ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) na may 183 na opisyal ng barangay ang iniimbestigahan ngayon ng PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group dahil sa diumano'y graft and corruption sa pamamahagi ng cash aid sa ilalim ng social amelioration program.

Sinabi ni DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año na kasunod ng pag-anunsyo ng Pangulo ng isang P30,000 gantimpala para sa bawat nakumpirmang insidente ng mga opisyal ng barangay na sangkot sa katiwalian sa pamamahagi ng SAP, dumagsa ang mga reklamo sa mga hotlines ng DILG at DSWD at dahil dito, sinimulan nang imbestigahan ng PNP-CIDG ang may 183 opisyal ng barangay.

"Sa dami ng reklamong natanggap natin, 183 na ang iniimbestigahan ng ating kapulisan dahil may posibleng probable cause dito. Hindi titigil ang ating kapulisan sa pagdakip sa mga mandarambong na mga barangay official na siyang talagang virus ng lipunan. Ito ang mga uri ng pagdakip na kating-kati gawin ng ating PNP dahil talagang gigil din sila sa mga tiwaling mga opisyal," paliwanag ni Año.

Sinabi niya na ang mga pagkakakilanlan ng 183 mga opisyal ng barangay ay hindi maaaring isiwalat habang kasalukuyang isinasagawa ang pagsisiyasat. Ayon pa sa kanya, maraming mga reklamo ang dumarating patungkol sa parehong opisyal ng barangay kaya patong-patong ang mga report. "Madaming reklamo pero iniisa-isa na namin para makita ang mga kaso na may basehan, kaya sa ngayon, mayroon na tayong iniimbestigahan na 183 cases."

"Binabalaan ko kayo, kung nag-iisip kayo na mangulimbat ng mga tulong na para sa mga kabarangay ninyo, hahabulin namin kayo," dagdag niya.

Sinabi din niya na sa unang linggo pa lamang ng Mayo, sinimulan na ang pag-aresto sa mga tiwaling opisyal ng barangay at nauna nang nadakip ang isang barangay councilor sa Hagonoy, Bulacan na personal na binanggit ni Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang speeh. Si punong barangay Maria Luz Leal Ferrer ng Barangay 8, sa Isabela, Negros Occidental ay kinasuhan din ng PNP dahil sa mga sinasabing anomalya sa pamamahagi ng SAP sa Barangay 8 sa Isabela, Negros Occidental.

Ayon sa DILG Chief, kasunod ng isang masusing pagsisiyasat na isinagawa ng PNP Isabela, inakusahan si Ferrer ng pagdodoktor ng listahan ng mga benepisyaryo sa kanyang barangay. Nadidiin din ang suspek dahil sa mga ulat at salaysay mula sa mga saksi at sa pagsusuri sa di umano'y manipuladong listahan ng mga beneficiaries ng SAP. Dinakip rin si Mae Fajardo, isang Municipal Social Worker, kasama ni Ferrer dahil sa umano'y pagbabago niya ng opisyal na listahan ng tatanggap ng SAP.

Kinasuhan si Ferrer ng paglabag sa Republic Act 3019 o Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act at Article 171 ng Revised Penal Code dahil sa panghuhuwad ng mga pampublikong dokumento kasama si Fajardo.

Inatasan ng DILG kamakailan lamang ang PNP at hiniling ang National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na bigyan ng prayoridad ang pagsisiyasat ng mga ulat ng graft and corruption sa pamamahagi ng SAP financial assistance sa komunidad.

Iulat ang mga insidente ng katiwalian

Hinimok ni DILG Undersecretary at Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya ang lahat na mag-ulat ng mga insidente ng "kaltas," "splitting," falsification, at iba pang mga tiwaling gawain ng mga lokal na opisyal sa pinakamalapit na istasyon ng pulisya o tanggapan ng DILG sa kanilang pamayanan.

"Magandang simula na may 183 barangay officials na ang iniimbestigahan ng ating kapulisan. Ang ibig sabihin lamang nito ay alam na ng mga mamamayan ang kanilang resposibilidad at ang kanilang mga karapatan," sabi ni Malaya.

"Huwag kayong matakot. Tulungan ninyo kami na usigin ang mga tiwaling lider ng mga barangay na ito. Kakampi ninyo ang Pangulong Duterte, ang DILG, at ang kapulisan dito," aniya.

Sinabi ni Malaya na ang P30,000 pabuya ng Pangulo sa bawat kumpirmadong ulat ng katiwalian sa barangay ay isang katiyakan na sinusuportahan niya ang pag-aresto sa mga tiwali na ito. "Ang P30,000 po na ito ay isang patunay na ang ating pamahalaan ay seryoso sa paghuli sa mga kurakot at tiwaling opisyal ng barangay," aniya.

Hinikayat rin niya ang publiko na tawagan ang Hotline 8888 para sa mga kaso ng graft at corruption laban sa mga barangay at lokal na opisyal. Sinabi rin niya na ang lahat ng mga istasyon at hotline ng DILG at PNP ay bukas upang tumanggap ng mga ulat mula sa mga tao.

DILG to PNP: Probe and arrest corrupt local officials in SAP distribution May 5, 2020

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to immediately investigate reported anomalies in relation to SAP distribution like splitting or not giving the correct amount following the arrest and detention of a barangay kagawad who allegedly pocketed more than half of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) cash aid intended for poor families in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

The President has also offered a P30,000 reward to any person who will give information that will lead to the arrest of these corrupt local officials.

"I am directing PNP units all over the country and also requesting the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to prioritize the investigation of graft and corruption cases against local officials on SAP distribution. Greedy and corrupt officials should have no place in the government. They are carriers of a malignant virus that destroys the trust the people gave to them," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año as he expressed dismay over the reported incident in Hagonoy caught on video.

Año said the alleged illegal acts of Barangay Kagawad Danilo Flores, 66, of Barangay San Agustin in Hagonoy, Bulacan is "disgraceful and downright shameful" as public officials should be the ones helping poor families especially during the present Covid-19 crisis.

"Nakakahiya! Ang SAP ay kinuha mula sa kaban ng bayan bilang ayuda sa mga salat sa buhay at walang kabuhayan sa gitna ng Covid-19 crisis. Hindi ito dapat ibulsa ng sinumang opisyal ng lokal na gobyerno," he added.

Flores was caught on video telling SAP financial aid recipients that they would only get P3,000 of the cash aid and that the remaining P3,500 would be given to the town mayor for distribution to non-SAP beneficiaries. However, Hagonoy Mayor Raulito Manlapaz denied Flores' claims and denied any involvement.

The video went viral on social media which prompted DSWD personnel to seek police assistance. Flores was arrested on Saturday night for violation of Sec. 3 (b) Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and for violation of the Bayanihan Act.

Año warned that similar incidents will not be tolerated and sanctions will be given to corrupt local officials. He assured those accused of due process but emphasized that the law will be imposed especially during this COVID crisis.

"Hindi talaga masikmura ng taumbayan ang pambubulsa ng SAP. Ang daming umaasa at naghihintay nito tapos pagkatanggap pa ay may kaltas na. It is an injustice to the beneficiaries and an unjust enrichment of corrupt officials," he said.

While the PNP and NBI are directed to investigate the criminal aspect, Año also directed the Department's Regional Directors to form their respective DILG Provincial Investigating Teams to look into and pursue administrative cases against these corrupt local officials that may lead to their suspension and dismissal from public office.

These teams will be submitting to the DILG Central Office their regular reports of the actions they have taken.

"Mas nakabantay ngayon ang taumbayan sa pamamahala ng local na gobyerno. Turn this challenge to an opportunity for you to show your compassion and the reason you ran for public office in the first place. Kusa namang makikita at masasabi ng mga tao kung kayo'y matino, mahusay at tunay na maaasahan," he said.

183 barangay officials being investigated by PNP for 'corruption' in SAP distribution

By: Cathrine Gonzales -01:38 PM May 11, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 183 barangay officials are being investigated by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for alleged graft and corruption in the distribution of cash aid to their constituents under the government's social amelioration program (SAP).

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said Monday that complaints swamped the hotlines of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) following the P30,000 reward offered by President Rodrigo Duterte to anyone for verified information on local government officials stealing funds from SAP.

"Sa dami ng ating reklamong natanggap, 183 na ang iniimbestigahan ng ating kapulisan dahil may posibleng probable cause dito (Of all complaints we have received, the police are now investigating 183 barangay officials because there is probable cause)," Año said in a statement.

He said, however, that the identities of the 183 barangay officials cannot be disclosed yet since the investigation is still underway.

According to Año, some barangay officials are also subjects of multiple complaints directed to the DILG and DSWD.

Meanwhile, DILG Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya urged the public to report incidents of splitting cash aid, falsification of documents, and other corrupt practices being committed by local officials in the distribution of financial aid to the nearest police station or DILG field offices.

He said the public may also call the 8888 hotlines for graft and corruption complaints against local officials. He added that all DILG and PNP stations and hotlines are open to receive such reports.

Bulacan village councilor nabbed for 'anomalous' SAP distribution

By: Carmela Reyes-Estrope 06:36 PM May 03, 2020

BULACAN, Philippines –Police arrested a barangay (village) councilor in Hagonoy town for graft allegations after he has been reportedly collecting more than half of the P6,500 cash aid under the government's special amelioration program (SAP). Col. Roginald Francisco, Hagonoy police chief, said they arrested Danilo Flores, 66, of Barangay San Agustin on Saturday night on the order of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Flores was caught on video while telling SAP cash aid recipients that they would only get P3,000 of the cash aid and that the remaining P3,500 would be given to the town mayor for distribution to non-SAP beneficiaries.

The video went viral on social media after a certain Lhon Villamayor Perez posted it on Facebook on April 27.

Mayor Raulito Manlapaz dismissed Flores' claims and denied any involvement in the alleged irregularity in the SAP cash aid distribution.

SAP beneficiaries in Barangay San Agustin said they were not informed about how the amount deducted from the cash grant will be spent.

But Flores said he and the SAP cash aid recipients had an internal agreement that part of the cash aid would be given to those who did qualify for the financial assistance.

DILG: 134 barangay officials now facing criminal raps for SAP anomalies

May 26, 2020

More people are coming forward to file complaints against their barangay officials on alleged anomalies in the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) pay-out as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) today announced that 134 barangay execs are now facing criminal charges before the Prosecutor's Office of the Department of Justice (DOJ) for such irregularities.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said this represents a 320% increase in the number of barangay officials that are now facing criminal charges for alleged offenses in the distribution of the first tranche of SAP cash aid in a matter of four days. Last May 20, there were only 42 barangay officials who were charged by the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation Group (PNP-CIDG).

"Hindi ninyo matatakas ang mga panlolokong ginawa ninyo sa pamimigay ng ayuda. Sinira ninyo ang tiwala ng gobyerno at ng inyong mga kabarangay kaya sa kalaunan, sa kulungan ang bagsak ninyo," said Año.

He said that the PNP-CIDG will file nine more cases in the next few days, and is fast tracking the case build-up on 86 other cases.

The DILG Chief commended the PNP-CIDG for its expeditious handling of all complaints by the public on SAP anomalies. "Good job to the PNP-CIDG! Mabuhay kayo!," he said.

He said a total of 318 complainants went to the PNP-CIDG and its regional field units to express their disgust and disappointment and to give statements over the wrongdoings of their barangay officials during the SAP distribution.

DILG Spokesperson and Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya thanked the Department of Justice and the Prosecutor General for ordering all provincial and city prosecutors to prioritize the preliminary investigation of cases against barangay officials allegedly involved in SAP anomalies so that criminal information may be filed with the courts.

"We are grateful to the DOJ and the Prosecutor General for prioritizing these cases. We need to send a strong message to corrupt barangay officials that their criminal activities will not be tolerated," he said.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra and Prosecutor General Benedicto Malcontento recently instructed all prosecutors all over the country to set the preliminary investigations as soon as possible, to monitor progress of such cases which have taken on "a sinister and disgraceful character, considering that money intended for poor hungry people is unlawfully taken away from them."

Various complaints

In Boac, Marinduque, a barangay chairman, two barangay kagawads and SK chairperson have been charged because of their alleged illegal collection of P50 processing fee from each SAP beneficiary. A similar incident was reported in Binmaley, Pangasinan where the barangay captain and his cohort reportedly collected P1,000 from a complainant after receiving his SAP assistance.

“Sa Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur naman, isinuplong ng mga residente ang isang punong barangay dahil sa pagkaltas ng tig-P2,000 mula sa 132 SAP recipients. Akala siguro nitong mga opisyal ng barangay na ito ay middleman sila at kailangang may komisyon sila mula sa SAP,” he said.

In another barangay in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, in Talisay City, and in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte, barangay officials are the subject of complaints after allegedly acting with deceit, dishonesty and false information by including the names of their relatives in the list of SAP beneficiaries although they were not qualified leaving out the poorest of the poor in the barangay who had no means of income.

Malaya said politics was sometimes at play in the giving out of SAP in some barangays particularly in Eastern Samar where a barangay captain reported that the mayor of his town allegedly deprived all of the residents in his barangay from receiving SAP because he is not a political supporter of the mayor.

“Ilang beses na naming inuulit. Hindi criteria ang pagiging kamag-anak o kakampi sa politika sa pamimigay ng SAP. Para ito sa mga kapus-palad ano man ang katayuan,” he said.

3 barangay officials in Hagonoy, Bulacan charged over SAP 'anomaly'

By: Cathrine Gonzales / 01:33 PM May 14, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Three barangay officials of a village in Hagonoy, Bulacan were charged with graft and corruption by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) due to alleged anomalies in the distribution of funds from the government's social amelioration program (SAP).

NBI officer-in-charge Eric Distor on Thursday identified those charged before the Department of Justice on May 11 as Chairman Jason Mendoza, Kagawad Danilo Flores, and Executive Assistant Richard Bautista, who are all from Barangay San Agustin.

Distor said two other individuals identified as former barangay kagawad Levi Cosay and Regine Bautista, wife of the barangay's executive assistant, were also charged for their alleged involvement in the anomaly.

Flores became the subject of the ire of President Rodrigo Duterte in his May 4 speech due to the alleged irregularities in the distribution of cash aid.

The NBI official noted that three complainants claimed that SAP beneficiaries in the village received P6,500 each on April 27 at San Agustin Elementary School.

In the afternoon of the same date, Flores, accompanied by a certain Michael Perez, then demanded from them P4,000 from the SAP cash subsidy they have received, according to Distor.

Flores allegedly claimed that the P3,500 will be given to Hagonoy Municipal Mayor Raulito Manlapaz Sr. while the remaining P500 will be given to the frontliners of the municipality of Hagonoy.

Further investigation revealed that Flores even threatened the complainants they will be blacklisted and eventually delisted as beneficiaries of all relief and amelioration grants of the government if they refuse to give the P4,000, according to Distor.

"Against their will, complainants gave back to subject Flores the amount of P4,000," he said in an NBI report.

Citing statements from witnesses, Distor added that a total of P117,000 collected by Flores was turned over to Bautista and his wife.

"Witnesses further averred that it is common knowledge in their barangay that being the executive assistants, which position requires the barangay chairman's trust and confidence, subject Bautista has indeed gained the confidence of Chairman Mendoza, thus they believe that subject Bautista could not have acted on his own without the imprimatur of his boss, incumbent chairman Mendoza," added the NBI official.

Duterte is offering P30,000 to those who can provide information on government officials pocketing cash from SAP.

Negros Occidental village chief, social welfare exec face raps for irregular SAP distribution

By: Cathrine Gonzales -11:42 AM May 08, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Western Visayas police have filed charges against a barangay (village) chief and an officer of the Municipal Social Welfare Development Office in Isabela, Negros Occidental for alleged irregularities in the distribution of cash assistance under the government's social amelioration program (SAP).

Brig. Gen. Rene Pamuspusan, director of the Western Visayas regional police, said Friday that cases for violation of the Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and for violation of Article 171 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC) for falsification of documents by a public official were filed against Maria Luz Leal Ferrer, chief of Barangay 8.

Meanwhile, Mae Fajardo, MSWD officer in Isabela town, was also charged for violation of Article 171 of the RPC for allegedly falsifying the official list of recipients of cash aid under the SAP.

"In this time of pandemic, corruption has no place in Western Visayas" Pamuspusan said in a statement.

According to the police official, the investigation stemmed from a text message sent by a concerned citizen citing irregularities allegedly committed by the village chief and the MSWD officer.

He said the complainant revealed that Ferrer released cash aid to her 13-year-old grandchild and to her well-off relative.

The complainant also alleged that the village chief has "bias" in selecting the beneficiaries for the cash aid in his locality, added Pamuspusan.

"After a thorough investigation conducted by the local police on the list of beneficiaries and on the testimonies of credible witnesses, a probable cause was established that there was indeed irregularity on the part of the barangay executive and the MSWD officer," read a report from the Western Visayas police.

The investigation also led to the filing of charges against local residents Wizza Leal and Emmanuel Orsolon for allegedly falsifying entries in the SAP form.

In a command conference on Thursday, Pamuspusan ordered all provincial and city directors in the region to establish hotlines and complaint centers that will cater to complaints about irregularities in the distribution of cash aid under SAP. He also appealed to the public to report corruption in the distribution.

Police earlier arrested a village councilor in Hagonoy, Bulacan for graft allegations after reportedly collecting more than half of the P6,500 cash aid from local SAP beneficiaries.

President Rodrigo Duterte also earlier expressed his anger over the corruption in SAP distribution, citing the case in Bulacan. He later offered P30,000 for any information that could lead to the discovery of an anomaly in the SAP cash aid distribution.

Village chief indicted for graft over SAP

By Darwin Pesco May 9, 2020

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) reported the indictment of a barangay (village) chief of Isabela, Negros Occidental over anomalies in the distribution of the government's cash aid under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP).

PBGen. Rene Pamuspusan, Western Visayas police chief, identified the barangay chief as Maria Luz Leal Ferrer of Barangay 8.

Together with Ferrer, a Municipal Social Welfare Development Officer named Mae Fajardo was also indicted.

Pamuspusan ordered the filing of charges against the said officials after finding evidence of irregularities in the distribution of the cash aid in the area.

The probe stemmed from a text message of a concerned citizen citing that Ferrer and Fajardo committed various irregularity in the distribution.

The complainant accused the village executive of bias in selecting the beneficiaries in his locality, Pamuspusan added.

Ferrer was charged for violation of the Republic Act (RA) 3019 or Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and violation of Article 171 of the Revised Penal Code for "Falsification of document by a public officer. "

While Fajardo was also charged for violation of Article 171 after allegedly falsifying the official list SAP recipients.

After a thorough investigation conducted on the list of beneficiaries with the testimonies of credible witnesses, local police established probable cause against the two.

The Western Visayas police chief also ordered all provincial and city directors in Western Visayas to establish hotlines and complaint centers to receive complaints and other cash aid anomalies.

Pamuspusan appealed to the public to be vigilant and report corrupt local officials.

"In this time of the pandemic, corruption has no place in Western Visayas," Pamuspusan said in a statement.

In Luzon, a barangay kagawad (village officer) named Danilo Flores, 66, of Barangay San Agustin was arrested for allegedly pocketed more than half of the SAP cash aid intended for poor families in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año recently ordered the PNP to investigate and arrest local officials involved in the anomalies in the cash aid distribution.

President Rodrigo Duterte offered a P30,000 reward to any person who can give information leading to the arrest of the corrupt local officials.

Año also requested the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to prioritize the investigation of graft and corruption cases against local officials on SAP distribution.

The Department's Regional Directors have been tasked to form their respective DILG Provincial Investigating Teams to pursue administrative cases against the corrupt local officials. Corrupt officials are to be immediately suspended and dismissed from public office, Año said.

6 Bacolod 'barangay' probed over SAP issues

By Eugene Y. Adiong May 13, 2020

BACOLOD CITY: Six barangay (villages) in Bacolod City are being investigated by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for alleged anomalies related to the distribution of the government's aid under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP).

CMS Ramiro Gocotano told Premier News on Monday night that the barangay they were investigating were Felisa, Mansilingan, Bata, Granada, 1 and Handumanan.

Gocotano said as of Monday, they had received 14 walk-in complainants.

Felisa topped the list with six complainants, he added.

"We will file the case against Felisa officials this week," Gocotano said.

Granada has two complainants, one of whom is a person with disability (PWD), he added.

Gocotano said the PWD was not given a survey form, which was given instead to a neighbor with children working abroad.

He added "it is unfair because the mandate of the SAP is that it (aid) will be given to the poorest of the poor."

"The CIDG, as the chief investigative arm of the PNP is mandated to lead the investigation and case build-up against local and barangay officials," Gocotano said.

He added that his office beside the BAYS Center at the Reclamation Area is open to those who would want to file complaints.

Meanwhile, the Negros Occidental Police Provincial Office (Noppo) has started receiving more complaints over alleged anomalies in the distribution of the social amelioration program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Col. Romeo Baleros, provincial police director, said they received four complaints from the cities of Bago, Talisay and Cauayan town and he referred the complainants to their respective local police stations.

Baleros added that the complainants must proceed to the police stations, armed with solid evidence such as documents, videos and pictures in order for the case to prosper.

The Noppo director said they already received orders from the Interior department to investigate and arrest any local officials who are engaging in corrupt activities when handing out the financial assistance.

He said the provincial police would also assist complainants in the filing of the criminal case before the Prosecutor's Office and they also have a choice of filing an administrative charge before the Office of the Ombudsman.
