

Rookie cop in extort axed

QC PLEB suspends another

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The Quezon City People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) dismissed a policeman for grave misconduct over robbery and extortion complaints, while another cop was suspended for 51 days for less grave misconduct.

Dismissed from the service was Patrolman Michael Gragasin while suspended effective immediately for attempted extortion was P/Corporal Alex Chocowen.

In Administrative Case 16- 008, Gragasin and Chocowen were alleged to have extorted money from the sister of a certain Mark Torres whom they arrested on 16 August 2016 in San Francisco del Monte.

In her complaint, the woman said she was forced to give Gragasin P30,000 at the Masambong police station in her desire to have her brother freed. She added that Chocowen also demanded P3,000 from her so he would not attend the hearing against Torres.

In Administrative Case 16-008, Gragasin and Chocowen were alleged to have extorted money from the sister of a certain Mark Torres whom they arrested on 16 August 2016 in San Francisco del Monte.

The PLEB considered as an aggravating circumstance in the case of Gragasin his receiving the money right inside a police station. It said the complainant was clearly seeking justice over the shakedown.

The Quezon City PLEB was reorganized five months ago with Atty. Rafael Calinisan designated as chief.

“Rogue cops have no place in Quezon City. While we recognize that the police are our indispensable partners in maintaining peace and order, we will not shirk from our duty to make erring policemen accountable for their lawless acts,” Calinisan said.

“This is a thankless and dangerous job. We are just performing our civic duty to help the Filipino people. We are tired of the old system. We are doing our share towards nation-building,” he added.

Meanwhile, A 29-year-old man was arrested in a buy-bust operation conducted Saturday by elements of the station drug enforcement unit (SDEU) of PS-14 in Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City.

The suspect “Dave,” said to be in the list of suspected drug personalities in the barangay, yielded shabu with a street value of P54,400, according to P/ Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bilaro.

“Dave” was arrested along Kaligtasan Street after he transacted drugs with an undercover policeman under the command of SDEU chief P/Maj. Jun Fortunato.

In all, eight grams of the illegal drugs, considered as poor man's cocaine, were confiscated from the suspect inside three plastic sachets. The P500 marked money was also recovered for use as evidence.

He will face a complaint for violation of Sections 5 and 11, Article 11 of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Drugs Act of 2002.