

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE**  
**News and Information Bureau**

**PRESS BRIEFING WITH PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON SALVADOR PANELO**  
**November 11, 2019**

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Good afternoon MPC; kasama na natin si Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo.

**SEC. PANELO:** Good afternoon MPC.

We have been informed of the passing of Mr. Lucio “Bong” Tan Jr. who is currently president and Chief Operating Officer of the PAL Holdings Incorporated this morning at 8:45 a.m. following his admission to a hospital, shortly after he collapsed while playing basketball - a sport he dearly loved. We expressed our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the family especially to Mr. Lucio Tan on the untimely demise of Mr. Bong Tan, who was I think either 52 or 54... 53.

I know personally Bong Tan, he impressed me as a very humble person with a serious mien and always a ready to smile to the people he meets and he was a good brother to all his siblings, a dutiful son and an efficient corporate man.

I’m sure the family will miss him as we miss him as a friend. Even as we pray to the Almighty to give him eternal repose of his soul and may perpetual light shine upon him.

I’m ready for your questions.

**PRINCE GOLEZ/ABANTE:** Good afternoon, sir. Sir, in a CBS news interview, Filipino journalist Ma. Ressa described the environment for journalist as “far worse than any war zone that I’ve been in.” She was also quoted as saying “there is no end to it, we have been living through three years for this kind of hell.” Can you comment on that, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** As Maria my friend is want, she’s always exaggerating. It’s only a war zone to those who were involved in drugs and who resist violently any warrant of arrest being served them or when they are subject of a buy bust operation and they violently resist as well as imperil the lives of law enforcement officers.

**PRINCE GOLEZ/ABANTE:** Sir, are Filipino journalists or journalists in general still safe in the Philippines, sir—are they still safe in the Philippines?

**SEC. PANELO:** As safe as you are!

**PRINCE GOLEZ/ABANTE:** But the committee to protect journalist said otherwise, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** That’s their belief, but the fact is every journalist, whether here or abroad, is free to cover any event in this country; and they come out alive and well and very good at reporting, even if sometimes exaggerating. Oh natawa ka Chona, hindi naman ikaw ang pinapatamaan ko ah.

**ROSE NOVENARIO/HATAW:** Sir, sabi ni Secretary Lorenzana pabor siya na hindi na ma-extend iyong martial law sa Mindanao. May reaksiyon na po iyong Palasyo?

**SEC. PANELO:** Then, that will be considered by the President. The President always says that he will defer to the advice and recommendation of those on the ground.

**ROSE NOVENARIO/HATAW:** So, kailan kaya ia-announce kung may extension iyong martial law o wala?

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi pa naman yata mag-i-expire; mag-i-expire na ba?

**ROSE NOVENARIO/HATAW:** Sa 31 sir, December pa.

**SEC. PANELO:** Matagal pa pala eh.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Sir, sa schedule muna ni Presidente. This week ba mag-takeoff siya ng... magpapahinga?

**SEC. PANELO:** Ang alam ko Tuesday, bukas, ang start ang kanyang pahinga.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Until when, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** Sabi ni Bong and hindi naman siya nag-disagree dahil tatlo kaming nag-uusap, mga three days.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Ah three days off lang. Hindi naman kailangan iyon, sir, iyon ng parang official leave or anything?

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi na kailangan. Alam mo, ang napapansin ko kay Presidente, as I told him, every time you have eight hours sleep ang ganda ng itsura mo eh. Palagay ko iyon lang ang kulang niya eh - palagi siyang kulang ng tulog. Iyon din yata nangyari kay Bong, kulang ng tulog, ang daming trabaho, overworked. Kahit puyat na puyat the night before nag-basketball pa. Baka ka masyadong strenuous.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** How is this a... can you call this rest?

**SEC. PANELO:** I think so, yes.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Or how is this going to look like, sir, in terms of governance, so less schedule—

**SEC. PANELO:** Rest lang iyon, parang pahinga lang sa kanyang maraming trabaho.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** So mostly in Davao?

**SEC. PANELO:** Ah yes. I think so, yes,

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** No naman, not related to medical test that he is—

**SEC. PANELO:** No.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Sir, habang nagpapahinga ang Presidente, sino ang caretaker ng government?

**SEC. PANELO:** Oh di si Executive Secretary Medialdea.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Not the Vice President?

**SEC. PANELO:** Eh bising-bisi sa pagka anti-drug czar.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Related to that, sir. Iyong kampanya ba ng Presidente - iyong mahigpit na kampanya sa droga - binibitawan na ba ito ng Pangulo, talaga bang wala na siyang paki alam?

**SEC. PANELO:** Binibigay niya nga kay anti drug crime czar.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Meaning, wala na siyang paki alam.

**SEC. PANELO:** Ibibigay niya lahat ng kailangan niya. Sinabi niya I'll give everything to her, para... we will help her.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Hands off na po ba ang Presidente?

**SEC. PANELO:** Not hands off, siya pa rin ang Presidente, kumbaga alter ego siya.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Ang binibigay ninyo iyong pamamahala lang pero nandoon siya - on top of everything pa rin siya?

**SEC. PANELO:** Siyempre siya ang Presidente, di siya ang magiging accountable sa buong bansa pa rin. If she fails, di the President also fails.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Until now hindi pa ho nagkakausap si Pangulo at saka si Vice President—

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi pa, pero sabi ni Presidente nung magkausap kami 'I'll be the one to invite her.'

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Kailan kayo huling nag usap ng Pangulo, Secretary, if I may?

**SEC. PANELO:** The day before yesterday.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Saturday.

**SEC. PANELO:** No, kailan ba iyong birthday ni—Sunday evening. Kagabi ba iyon?

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Sunday evening, last night.

**SEC. PANELO:** Kailan ba iyong birthday ni Letty Hanh, kung hindi Saturday evening—alam ko kasi may tatlong events ako, ah Saturday, Saturday evening kasi kahapon ibang events pala ako. Saturday evening.

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Habang nagpapahinga po ang Pangulo, ano ang bilin niya sa mga Gabinete, sa inyo, kay Secretary Medialdea?

**SEC. PANELO:** Iyon naman ang Presidente, hindi na nagbibilin kasi from the very start, at the inception, alam na namin ang instruction, 'do your work, perform.'

**HENRY URI/DZRH:** Wala pa pong bang napipisil talaga ang Pangulo na Chief PNP?

**SEC. PANELO:** Wala pa siyang binabanggit eh.

**PIA GUTIERREZ/ABS-CBN:** Sir, I'm sure this is expected for the administration, but Vice President Leni Robredo is suggesting a revamp na anti-drug campaign including iyong pagtanggal—which will replace Oplan Tokhang. What is the reaction of the administration?

**SEC. PANELO:** Well, as we have said, we will give her all that she needs. As I've said in my statement, she should be given a wide latitude and she should pursue her own scheme of things in pursuing the drug war initiated by this administration.

**PIA GUTIERREZ/ABS-CBN:** Sir, this includes iyong paggiit nang paggamit ng body cam for the police during anti-drug operations?

**SEC. PANELO:** Ever since hindi ba, mayroon na noon?

**Q:** [OFF MIC]

**SEC. PANELO:** Ah wala pa? Ano?

**Q:** [OFF MIC]

**SEC. PANELO:** Tuloy iyon.

**PIA GUTIERREZ/ABS-CBN:** So, sir, the administration is open to scrapping Tokhang operations o iyong campaign—

**SEC. PANELO:** Basta si VP Leni ang in-charge. So whatever she feels that should be enforced, we will do it.

**PIA GUTIERREZ/ABS-CBN:** So it's a yes, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** It is a yes, if she wants it! But I heard her say that hindi naman pala ganoon grabe ang Tokhang, parang tinatanong lang—narinig ko siya eh, kaya hindi ko nga alam kung kailan siya nag-backtrack. Kasi ang narinig ko sa kaniya, hindi naman pala ganoon kaseryoso o deadly iyong Tokhang, parang nagtatanong lang naman o gusto niyang mag-volunteer mag-surrender.

**CHONA YU/RADYO INQUIRER:** Sir, clarify lang: Is the President open para i-scrap iyong Tokhang?

**SEC. PANELO:** If that will be effective in so far as the drug war is concerned. She has been given the authority.

**CHONA YU/RADYO INQUIRER:** Pero iyon iyong ... 'di ba iyon iyong gusto ni Vice President, sir, nai-scrap iyong Tokhang?

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi ba sinasabi ko nga sa iyo, ang una kong narinig sa kaniya, hindi naman pala ganoon ka-ano iyong Tokhang. Ang pagkakaalam ko ganito, hindi naman pala. Iyon ang narinig kong huli sa kaniya.

So but if she wants to scrap it, eh siya ang anti-drug czar, kung sa tingin niya mas effective, mayroon pang mas effective sa Tokhang eh di gawin niya.

**CHONA YU/RADYO INQUIRER:** Sir, balikan ko lang iyong sabi mo kanina na the President is not totally hands-off pa sa drug operations. Does it mean that the Vice President will still consult or ask the President—

**SEC. PANELO:** If she wants to consult the President, the President is always open to consultation to every member of the Cabinet.

**CHONA YU/RADYO INQUIRER:** So kailangan pa rin ng approval ni Presidente?

**SEC. PANELO:** Not approval. Kung may kinukunsulta siya eh di advice, baka gusto niyang advice. I think everything will be threshed out the moment the two talk.

**CHONA YU/RADYO INQUIRER:** And you said, sir, kanina na ibibigay ninyo ang lahat ng kailangan—

**SEC. PANELO:** Iyan ang sabi ni Presidente, ‘Anong kailangan niya, ibigay ko sa kaniya.’

**CHONA YU/RADYO INQUIRER:** Including the budget, sir, kasi she’s asking for additional budget for the ...

**SEC. PANELO:** Kung kailangan iyan, bakit naman hindi.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Sir, last week po kasi sinabi ninyo na the VP will need to talk to the President first if she wants to implement major changes in the anti-drug, I mean, in drug operations. Now you’re saying that she can scrap Oplan Tokhang which is a major change if ever, and hindi niya na kailangan—

**SEC. PANELO:** Eh kasi ang sabi ni Presidente ibibigay niya. Kausap ko lang the other night at iyon din ang sinabi niya.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Okay. So can you share with us what the President maybe told you last Saturday that—

**SEC. PANELO:** Sabi niya, ‘Ibibigay ko sa kaniya, bahala na siya kung anong gusto niya. Basta siya ang on top of the situation there.’

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Okay. So there’s no need for her to ask the President for permission for any key changes in the drug war?

**SEC. PANELO:** That depends on her. Hindi natin alam kung anong gusto niyang sabihin kay Presidente.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Yeah, but seeking permission per se in carrying out orders?

**SEC. PANELO:** Unang-una, I don't think na baka nasa isip niya hindi permission. Baka sasabihin niya gusto niya lang maliwanagan kung anong scope ng authority niya, anong puwede niyang gawin.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Again, but permission, sir? In executing what she wants?

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi natin alam. I cannot speculate on what VP Leni wants. We have to wait for her.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** But you just said that if she wants to scrap Oplan Tokhang, she can?

**SEC. PANELO:** Correct. But hindi natin alam kung gusto niya iyon eventually, 'di ba.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Okay. Now, sir, did the President say when he will call the Vice President?

**SEC. PANELO:** Wala naman siyang sinabi. Basta ang sinabi niya, I will invite her.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** Okay. Sir, the President doesn't like it when foreigners meddle in a local state affairs specifically, especially his drug war. He's criticized UN officials before na critical of how he conducts things. Now the Vice President will be meeting with US Embassy officials and also UN officials about the reviews on the drug war. What does the Palace think about that?

**SEC. PANELO:** If she feels na makakatulong iyong Amerika sa drug war—eh dati namang tumutulong ang mga Amerikano sa atin - sharing intelligence is one of them.

**INA ANDOLONG/CNN PHILS:** How about her plan to discuss with UN officials naman po, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** Basta—siguro pabayaon muna natin si VP Leni in her work.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Sir, a little bit on the schedule of the President. Sound bite purposes just so it comes from you. Why is the President taking a three-day rest?

**SEC. PANELO:** Well, upon the advice of friends, of colleagues in the world scene and most likely baka upon the advice of the doctors also to take a respite from his punishing schedule.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** No medical concern?

**SEC. PANELO:** Wala naman.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Sir, may we ask what the President did over the weekend?

**SEC. PANELO:** Did over the weekend?

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Yeah. He's here 'di ba? He was here?

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi, nagpunta siya sa wake 'di ba? Nagpunta siya sa wake ni the late Congressman Rudy Albano. So we saw each other there. Then the following day, he flew that

very night. From the wake, he flew. And then when I talked to him, he just had a private dinner with the First Lady, as well as his son Baste and wife. And then, nag-usap na kami.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Sa Davao, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** Sa Davao iyon.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Sir, can I go back to the Vice President. Sir, mayroon pong isa, si Phelim Kine, I think—hold on.

**SEC. PANELO:** Who?

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Phelim Kine. Sandali lang, sir, I'll look for the photo 'no. Basta sabi niya, his bags are packed and ready to go to the Philippines to investigate the alleged killings here.

**SEC. PANELO:** Who is he?

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Let me see the photo. Hold on. Hindi siya, sir, UN eh, parang investigator. Ito, sir. He is the director of Research and Investigation at Physicians for Human Rights, former Human Rights Watch Asia. He said that, "My bags are packed and I'm ready to come to the Philippines to help advise how to end this murderous drug war."

**SEC. PANELO:** How to end? Pupunta siya rito para magbigay siya ng ...

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** To advice.

**SEC. PANELO:** Hindi naman siya taga-rito eh. But you know, all these things have to be deferred to VP Leni as the anti-drug czar, and the ICAD of which she chairs. Siyempre lahat iyan ay pag-uusapan sa ICAD. Nasa kanila na iyon.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Sir, kung halimbawa iyong UN rapporteur for extrajudicial killings wants to go here, ayaw ni Presidente noon. But if the Vice President—

**SEC. PANELO:** Eh kasi naman iyon, kaya ayaw ni Presidente, mayroon na kaagad na conclusion. Iyon ang ayaw niya sa lahat eh. Hindi ka pa pumupunta, may conclusion ka na. Sasabihin niya ganito kadami ang namatay. Gusto ni Presidente, iyong open-minded ka, objective ka. Gusto mong malaman kung totoo iyong balita o hindi. Iyon ang dapat na approach. Hindi iyong may conclusion ka na kaagad, murderous state, eh papaano.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** So as far as that personality is concerned, no—

**SEC. PANELO:** Oo, kasi nga she has already reached a conclusion even prior to investigation.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** How about the ICC, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** The ICC, they investigated on the basis of documentary evidence submitted to them; so they don't have to go anywhere else. Kumbaga ano iyon eh, preliminary investigation or even we call it preliminary examination. And from what I read, only on the basis of what is submitted to them.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** So parang walang occasion for them to go here?

**SEC. PANELO:** Wala.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** But if they do, I mean—

**SEC. PANELO:** And then they will be violating their own rules.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Can the Vice President submit the document to the ICC?

**SEC. PANELO:** Sabi nga natin, we will defer to the VP kung anong diskarte niya. Hayaan muna natin.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** For record purposes: The President is giving the Vice President free reign?

**SEC. PANELO:** Oo 'di ba, sinabi niya nga eh.

**JINKY BATICADOS/IBC:** Hi, sir. Sir, sabi mo po mag-uumpisa 'yung pagpapahinga ng Pangulo bukas—

**SEC. PANELO:** Yep!

**JINKY BATICADOS/IBC:** May we know kung anong schedule niya today—

**SEC. PANELO:** Subject to changes without prior notice, as usual. Alam mo naman si Presidente.

**JINKY BATICADOS/IBC:** So, anong gagawin n'ya ngayon?

**SEC. PANELO:** Kasi nagbigay siya ng message kay Ms. Letty Hanh eh. Ang pagkasabi niya sa message niya: "Ang dami kong ano...may back work ako. I have to do a lot of things kaya hindi ako makapunta diyan." Ibig sabihin, nagtatrabaho pa rin siya nung gabi.

**JINKY BATICADOS/IBC:** But do you think, sir, the three days is enough for the President to rest?

**SEC. PANELO:** That's for the President to decide, siya ang may katawan eh.

**JINKY BATICADOS/IBC:** Maaari bang ma-extend 'yun, sir?

**SEC. PANELO:** Lahat 'yan puwede. Subject to change nga without prior notice.

**JINKY BATICADOS/IBC:** One last, sir. Sir, si VP Leni po i-invite sabi mo ng Presidente, hindi natin alam when. Possible ba after the rest ng Presidente, after siyang magpahinga iimbitahan niya ito?

**SEC. PANELO:** Siguro. 'Yung kay VP Leni, sabi niya "kung imbitado ako, pupunta ako." Hindi niya pa raw kasi sigurado kung Cabinet rank. Siguro, 'yun lang ang inaantay niya.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** [off mic] So, anong gagawin natin?



**SEC. PANELO:** O, 'di... narinig na siguro ni Presidente 'yun.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** [off mic] Unclear.

**SEC. PANELO:** Because I—Hindi ba, I remember the President was saying, “I will appoint her as a member of the Cabinet; so she becomes my alter ego just like all members of the Cabinet.”

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** [off mic] Unclear.

**SEC. PANELO:** Hmn?

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** [off mic] Unclear.

**SEC. PANELO:** What was that?

**USEC. ROCKY:** Use the microphone, Joseph.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** 'Yun pong sinabi n'yo, sir, na “she becomes my alter ego just like the other Cabinet”—

**SEC. PANELO:** Oo. Kasi when you are a member of the Cabinet you're an alter ego.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** No but that's him talking or your—That's him talking? That's the sound bite—

**SEC. PANELO:** Yeah, that's him talking.

**JOSEPH MORONG/GMA7:** Ah, okay.

**MYLENE ALFONSO/BULGAR:** Good morning, sir. May apela po 'yung mga GCTA returnees particular po sa New Bilibid Prison na hanggang ngayon po kasi—Sumuko po sila nung binigay na deadline ng Pangulo pero hanggang ngayon naghihintay pa rin po sila doon.

**SEC. PANELO:** Baka gusto nila doon? Libre!

**MYLENE ALFONSO/BULGAR:** Lalo na po 'yung mga not heinous. Sir, nung weekend 'di ba po mayroon pong mga tumakas din po sa Palawan Penal Colony, ngayon po dito naman po sa atin dito sa Bilibid mukhang kung may pagkakataon maaaring gawin din nila 'yung tumakas sila kasi po naiinip na po sila sa—nababagalan sila sa sistema kung paano po ba. Kaya hanggang kailan po sila doon magtitiis?

**SEC. PANELO:** Alin ang tatakas? 'Yung mga wala naman sa listahan o 'yung mga nasa listahan.

**MYLENE ALFONSO/BULGAR:** Ayun nga po, sir. Hanggang ngayon hindi po malinaw o 'yung listahan na 'yun na two thousand mahigit ang sumuko pero 'yung mga hindi pa rin po talaga—'yung bilang na one thousand nine hundred paano po kaya?

**SEC. PANELO:** Palagay ko ayaw muna nilang tumakas kasi libre doon eh. Wala ngang problema dun. You'll be fed there three meals a day, you have rest and peace.

**MYLENE ALFONSO/BULGAR:** Wala po bang direktiba sa DOJ na dapat po—

**SEC. PANELO:** Wala akong alam. You have to directly ask Secretary Menard Guevarra on that.

**MYLENE ALFONSO/BULGAR:** Kasi po ang hinaing nila sa Presidente dahil nga po sa deadline na ibinigay sa kanila, lumaya sila na—legal naman ang kanilang papel pero 'til now naghihintay sila doon kung hanggang Pasko o pagkatapos ng Pasko o hanggang next year.

**SEC. PANELO:** Then let's ask the DOJ Secretary.

**MYLENE ALFONSO/BULGAR:** Okay, sir

**USEC. ROCKY:** Okay. MPC, questions? Maricel, then Joyce.

**MARICEL HALILI/TV5:** Hi, sir! Good morning!

**SEC. PANELO:** Good morning.

**MARICEL HALILI/TV5:** Sir, may we have your statement on another incident that happened in PMA but this time hindi naman siya hazing - 'yung student nalunod during the class. I think, it's a swimming class. So, nauwi siya sa pagkamatay ni Cadet 4<sup>th</sup> Class Mario Telan Jr. last Friday. May we have your statement?

**SEC. PANELO:** I understand the initial findings is that there was no foul play but they're looking at the negligence of the instructors. Kasi parang nag-fail yata 'yung kadete sa unang trial. So, kung nag-fail 'yun, kung instructor ka dapat hindi mo muna pinatuloy 'yung kaniyang training. So, tinitingnan nila 'yung aspect na 'yun.

**MARICEL HALILI/TV5:** Sir—

**SEC. PANELO:** But we're bothered by the death of another plebe who could be an outstanding military officer if he were able to finish his course. So, the military instructors especially on the swimming side should reassess their protocols so that they can provide safety to their trainees.

**MARICEL HALILI/TV5:** [off mic] Thank you, sir.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Sir, going back lang kay VP Leni. Sabi niya sa isang interview, she's still confused whether 'yung position niya as co-chair of ICAD is a Cabinet post kasi hindi daw 'yun indicated sa papel na nakarating sa kaniya and she's waiting for a document stating that it's a Cabinet post. Will the Palace be issuing a document stating it's a Cabinet post?

**SEC. PANELO:** Eh, sinabi ni Presidente na ia-appoint siyang Cabinet rank, 'di magkakaroon na nga ng ganun.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Magkakaroon po ng appointment paper. Kailan sir ilalabas?

**SEC. PANELO:** 'Yan ang hindi ko alam.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Okay. Kasi sabi po niya, sa succeeding Cabinet meetings pupunta lang siya unless she is invited. Since hindi pa daw po clear, black and white on paper—

**SEC. PANELO:** Actually, 'pag member ka ng Cabinet, you don't need an invitation. 'Pag mayroong schedule ng Cabinet meeting, you are supposed to attend unless you cannot and you have to notify the Cab Secretary.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Okay. So, what's clear sir, may ilalabas na appointment paper.

**SEC. PANELO:** Yes.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Alright. Thank you, sir.

**USEC. ROCKY:** Okay. Questions, MPC? Avin.

**ALVIN BALTAZAR/RADYO PILIPINAS:** Good afternoon, Secretary. Sir, i-evaluate din ba ni Pangulo 'yung performance ni Vice President Leni Robredo as a—

**SEC. PANELO:** That goes without saying. Lahat naman ng members of the Cabinet and for that matter all officials of the government subject to evaluation, assessment of the President relative to the performance of their work.

**ALVIN BALTAZAR/RADYO PILIPINAS:** So, kung saka-sakaling hindi ma-satisfy si Presidente doon sa performance, pupuwedeng alisin sa kaniya 'yung pagiging anti-drug czar?

**SEC. PANELO:** Lahat naman 'yan puwede, Presidente siya eh. Everybody holds office at the pleasure of the President, all of us know that.

**ALVIN BALTAZAR/RADYO PILIPINAS:** Thank you, Secretary.

**USEC. ROCKY:** Okay. No more questions? Vanz, magtatanong ka ba?

**VANZ FERNANDEZ/POLICE FILES:** Sir! Good afternoon!

**SEC. PANELO:** Nagbago na upuan mo huh.

**VANZ FERNANDEZ/POLICE FILES:** Oo nga, sir eh. Sir, positive po ba kayo na magiging zero talaga ang layunin ni VP Leni—

**SEC. PANELO:** What do you mean zero ang layunin? Ang layunin cannot be zero.

**VANZ FERNANDEZ/POLICE FILES:** Zero death.

**SEC. PANELO:** Zero deaths.

**VANZ FERNANDEZ/POLICE FILES:** Yes, sir.

**SEC. PANELO:** 'Yun ang kaniyang gusto pero whether mangyayari 'yan on the ground is another thing.

**VANZ FERNANDEZ/POLICE FILES:** Okay, thank you. 'Yun lang, sir.

**USEC. ROCKY:** Okay, thank you. No more questions, MPC? Okay. Thank you, MPC! Thank you, Secretary Panelo.

**SEC. PANELO:** Tapos na?

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