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DILG: No truth to midnight appointees

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) today clarified misinformation that came out recently in one of the national newspapers, August 8, alleging 'midnight appointments' made by high-ranking agency officials.

"There is no truth to the reported 'midnight appointments' as alleged in the newspaper report," said Assistant Secretary For Finance, Comptrollership and Administration Ester Aldana.

Aldana said all vacancies that are being filled undergo a selection process in accordance with the policies and rules of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

She said that vacancies are posted in the Government Management Information System (MIS), the Department's website and were even published by the CSC as part of the government's policy on transparency and control measures.

Aldana further explained that organization and staffing of national government agencies like the DILG are governed and administered by a Personal Service Itemization and Plantilla of Personnel (PSIPOP) approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) such that only filled positions in said document are funded.

The DILG Assistant Secretary, who holds a career executive service officer (CESO) eligibility, said that midnight appointments are not possible because before vacant positions are filled, the remuneration for those positions have to be submitted to DBM for funding purposes prior to the preparation of appointments.

"Vacant positions have no appropriations. That is why there is no such thing as midnight appointees in the DILG," she stressed.

She likewise belied claims that career officers are rushing the appointments and elbowing out newcomers to be appointed by Duterte because all appointments were aboveboard, went through the recruitment and selection processes, and had the go-signal of Secretary Sueno, including the co-terminous positions in the Office of the Secretary.

On the promotion of Mary Rose Vilchez as one of the division chiefs in the Financial Management Service, Aldana said this is allowed by law considering that Vilchez is not within the third degree of consanguinity/affiliation with her, but is rather within the fourth degree as cousins. Moreover, Vilchez's promotion was approved/signed by former Undersecretary Edwin R. Enrile on October 9, 2015.

Under Section 59 of EO 292, the word "relative" and members of the family referred to are those related within the third degree of consanguinity or of affinity.

Aldana also said she is not in any way related to Romar Panganiban, who was appointed on July 2016 on the basis of his qualifications as Certified Public Accountant as approved/signed by Undersecretary Austere A. Panadero.

She said the appointment of Vilchez and Panganiban passed through a process of screening and deliberations as well as merit selection and promotion plan of the DILG as approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for implementation in the Department.

Aldana also said the other names that were mentioned in the newspaper were not new appointees but old employees given promotions except for Atty. Edward Justine Orden, who was designated on concurrent capacity as Acting Director of the Legal and Legislative Liaison Service. It was a designation temporary in nature and not an appointment where no additional salary is involved.

The appointment or promotion of personnel Cheryl C. Agustin-Flores to LGOO VII; Michelle T. Tabuzo to LGOO IV; Reynaldo C. Cusi to LGOO VI; Joan Aurelia R. Rosales to LGOO V; Nicholas G. Perlas to LGOO IV; Lyn L. Aguilar to LGOO IV, Israel Jiel F. Fedelicio to LGOO IV; Elenita S. Mahinay to LGOO IV; Teresita M. Morales to Info Tech Researcher II; Kennedy B. Mateo to Info System Researcher II; Donna D. Cuacoyes to Internal Auditor III; Patricia Rose B. Dahipon to Internal Auditing Assistant were approved by Undersecretary Edwin R. Enrile on March 2016 following the required process of screening, deliberations and selection.

On the other hand, the appointment (co-terminus) of Ms. Gina Estrada from Admin Aide VI to Senior Admin Assistant was approved by Secretary Ismael D. Sueno himself on August 1, 2016.

Aldana said there is no specific prohibition/limitation regarding the act of an appointing officer on signing the appointment of government employees even if the said appointing authority is about to retire in a period of two months.

She also added: *"All employees that were either promoted or designated after February 4, 2014 were acted upon the guidance of Circular No. 2014-01, the Enhanced DILG Merit Selection and Promotion Plan (MSPP) which was approved by then CSC NCR Director Lydia Alba-Castillo."*

She also noted that the DILG does not in any way engage in "palakasan or padrino system". She said if one is interested to work in the Department, he or she has to get and pass the Civil Service eligibility before being accommodated.

"We are certain that only the highly qualified pass the deliberation. The Department's manpower are career people loyal to the Institution they are serving," she said.

There are presently close to a hundred vacancies in the DILG – Central Office. This is due to rigid process undertaken by the Department on deliberation and selection before getting appointed/promoted. ###

Agosto 9, 2016

Pahayag ni DILG Secretary Ismael "Mike" D. Sueno ukol sa umano'y 'midnight appointments' at 'mafiosi'

Sa umpisa pa lamang, malinaw na ang direktiba ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte: ang pagsugpo sa ilegal na droga, kriminalidad, at korapsyon.

Mabigat ang tungkulin na ito at isa ang DILG sa inaasahang manguna sa pagpapatupad ng kampanyang ito. Higit kailanman, ngayon natin kailangang magtulungan at magkaisa dahil iisa ang ating layunin – isang tapat at malinis na gobyernong nakakapagbigay ng tapat at maayos na serbisyo sa mga mamamayang Pilipino.

Ikinagagalak ko na ang mga opisyal at empleyado ng DILG ay matitino, mahuhusay, at maaasahan sa trabaho.

Kaya hindi ko maiwasang magulat at madismaya sa mali-maling balita na umano'y may 'midnight appointments', pagmamaniobra ng ilang undersecretaries o assistant secretaries, at ang paghahamak sa akin na ako ay nasa ilalim ng kanilang impluwensiya at bulag sa pangyayari sa Kagawaran.

Sa katunayan, ang napabalitang 'midnight' appointment o promotion ng ilang empleyado sa DILG Central Office ay hindi po minadali at sa katotohanan ay dumaan sa prosesong naaayon sa alituntunin ng Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Ang DILG ay kasalukuyang nag-a-apply para sa International Organization for Standardization o ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System Certification. Ang iba't ibang pamamalakad sa Kagawaran ay sinisigurong alinsunod sa tamang proseso kabilang na ang pagpili ng mga aplikante sa trabaho. Hindi totoong may pagsalag sa pagpasok ng mga bagong tauhan. Hindi kasama sa basehan ng pagpili ang political affiliation.

Maging ang mahal nating Pangulo ay walang diskriminasyon sa mga hindi sumuporta sa kanya noong eleksyon.

Inuulit ko ang sinabi ng Pangulo sa kanyang unang State of the Nation Address (SONA): "I wish to assure everyone though that vindictiveness is not in my system. Just like you and I, all, equal treatment and equal protection are what I ask for our people."

Marami tayong trabahong dapat gawin. Sa panahong ito na unti-unti na nating nakikita at nadarama ang pagbabago, walang puwang ang pagbabatuhan ng putik at ang pagkakatag ng malisyosong balita.

Nananawagan ako sa ating mga kababayan at maging sa media na may mas mahahalaga at makabuluhang paksa at gawaing dapat nating hinaharap.

Sama-sama tayo sa paghahatid ng tapat na gobyerno para sa tunay na pagbabago.

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