

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Vicki Belo: I may be a co-dependent

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
Inquirer.net

MANILA— Celebrity doctor Vicki Belo's voice was the only one not heard at last week's rather raucous Senate hearing on the sex video scandal involving herself, fellow doctor and former boyfriend Hayden Kho, and sexy actress Katrina Halili.

Although she sent an affidavit to the hearing through lawyer Adel Tamano, the usually loquacious Belo has chosen to remain silent throughout the chaos so far—except for a few sound bites culled from ambush interviews.

Tuesday night last week, however, she gave Inquirer Entertainment an exclusive and extensive phone interview minutes before her flight to Paris, France, where she's taping an episode of her TFC program, *Belo Beauty 101*.

Thus, after weeks of hemming and hawing, Belo talked—unleashing a mouthful.

'That's crazy'
"I am not the mastermind," she asserted. She had heard the rumor that she instigated the release of Kho's sex videos with several women, including Halili, out of spite and jealousy.

Earlier, television host Lolit Solis said Kho told her that his estranged friend Eric Chua had pointed to Belo as the mastermind.

"That's crazy," Belo said. "We've gone through a lot... in the last six months, but now I'm trying to build up Hayden. I would never do anything to destroy him."

In December, Kho attempted suicide when Belo broke up with him, having learned of his affairs with other women through the sex videos.

"Some people even suspected that his suicide attempt was fake because, as a doctor, he knows the limit," Belo recounted. "But I [saw] the toxicology report. He took three times the lethal dose [of Valium]."

Kho isn't getting a fair shake, she said. "He underwent drug rehabilitation. He sought

the help of psychologists. He went through a lot of soul-searching. He has changed."

Belo further noted that Kho was on the road to recovery when the sex videos were released on the Net and via pirated DVDs this month. "He was about to stand, but was pushed back to the ground," she said.

She had no idea who's behind the release, "Basta [really] it's not me." She said her own sex video with Kho was taken with her consent, "Just for fun and on condition that it would be deleted immediately."

After it was rumored that it would be circulated, too, a joke reached Belo: "People said my video would sell for just P5. Ouch! Such a big insult."

Another rumor she wished to debunk was Solis' allegation that Hayden was receiving P300,000 from Belo Clinic, and was living in her posh Pacific Place condominium at The Fort.

"That is so unfair to Hayden's family. His father is also a doctor, with a good practice. Also, I didn't pay for the catering for Hayden's birthday party on May 20. It's so embarrassing, I can't face his family, with whom I've grown close."

Emotional support



Vicki Belo & Hayden Kho

Inquirer.net Photo

Belo insisted that Kho resigned from Belo Clinic last December and that he lives in his parents' home on Kanlaon Street, Quezon City.

Clearly, Belo is standing by her man, though she stressed that they are no longer lovers, having followed the suggestion of Kho's counselor to keep their relationship platonic. Kho has repeatedly declared as much in his own TV interviews.

"All I can offer him is emotional support," Belo explained. "I can love him only as a friend."

Solis said that she and other friends have repeatedly reminded Belo of Kho's past offenses. They've expressed concern that Belo and Kho could be in a "co-dependent" relationship.

"I feel that I may be a little co-dependent," Belo admitted. "I want him to succeed. He's been drug-free ... but there

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