

Smith doing clerical jobs at US embassy—DILG official

CONVICTED rapist US Marine Lance Corporal Daniel Smith is now doing clerical jobs while in confinement inside the United States embassy in Manila, a Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) official said last March 10.

“As a matter of fact, *medyo pumayat siya* (he has lost weight),” said Marius Corpus, DILG undersecretary for public safety, during the DILG’s anti-kidnapping operations press briefing last March 10.

Corpus said he visited Smith at his confinement area inside the grounds of US embassy along Roxas Boulevard in Manila last Thursday, March 5.

The US serviceman told him that his lawyer had filed a motion for an early resolution of their pending appeal before the Court of Appeals questioning his conviction.

Smith’s conviction and continued detention under US control despite a Supreme Court order for him to be transferred to a facility under Philippine control has spawned a series of street protests and debates among the country’s top legal experts.

The American soldier was convicted by the Makati City regional trial court of raping a Filipina in Subic, Zambales and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Aside from doing regular exercise, the US Embassy has lined up several activities for Smith not to stay idle, including clerical jobs and other paper work, Corpus said.

“In his area of confinement, he does clerical jobs and some paper work to keep his mind busy.



STILL THERE. Rape convict Daniel Smith (right) with Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus hold up copies of newspapers inside the American Marine’s detention room at the US embassy in this March 5 photo provided by the Dept of Interior and Local Government. The Supreme Court has ordered Smith returned to Philippine custody. DILG-OUSPS Photo courtesy of Inquirer.net

I recommended more physical exercise, otherwise he might have a heart attack there,” Corpus said.

He added that Smith is also aware that several groups outside the US embassy want him transferred to the New Bilibid Prisons.

However, he told Corpus that he is still awaiting the action of his government on the custody issue.

“He’s still waiting for his government’s action on his case. We, too, are awaiting the talks between the Philippine and US governments. We are not included in the negotiations, only the Department of Foreign Affairs.” (*Philstar.com*)

Legacy probe to include other SEC, BSP officials

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“We will evaluate it and if there’s a need to call him for a hearing, we’ll do that,” she added.

“If the bribery allegations are true, it’s a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. If that’s the case, we’ll file criminal charges before the Office of the Ombudsman or the DOJ,” she said.

Other SEC execs share blame
Senate President Juan Ponce

Enrile said other SEC commissioners including Barin should not only resign but be charged as well with bribery and corruption.

“We do not only allow them to retire. They must answer for their misconduct in office,” Enrile said. “To remedy the supposed ineptness of some people in the bureaucracy is to see to it that they must be hailed to court,” he told reporters last March 10.

“They (belong to a) collegial body. One is not the commission

so they must share the responsibility for the fiasco that has happened,” Enrile said.

He said Martinez himself admitted that he could not influence the decision of the commission.

“That’s the way I understand government. The government does function like a piano. Every part must do its part,” Enrile said, stressing that “resignation or retirement will not extinguish their criminal responsibility.”

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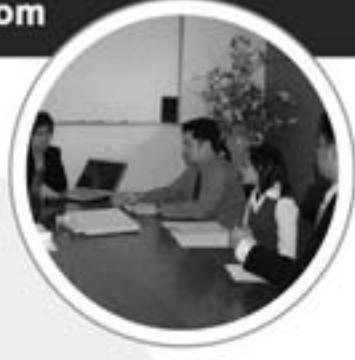
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