



PRESS RELEASE

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Secretary Gazmin files libel raps against Alvarez



Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin (left) files charges against Rhodora Alvarez at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office on April 8, 2016.

Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin filed three (3) counts of libel against Rhodora Alvarez, the BIR employee who accused the Secretary and other officials of the Department of National Defense of allegedly “rigging” the acquisition project for 21 UH-1 helicopters. The charges were filed last Friday, April 8, 2016, at the Quezon City Prosecutors' Office.

In his complaint-affidavit, Secretary Gazmin charged Alvarez with libel for the multiple malicious statements she made during her live interview on ABS-CBN Teleradyo's *Dos por Dos* program on May 22, 2015, during the televised Senate Investigation on July 7, 2015, and in the Manila Times article published on December 13, 2015.

If damages will be awarded, Secretary Gazmin has committed to donate these in full to the Help Educate and Rear Orphans Foundation, Inc. (HERO Foundation, Inc.), a non-

government organization for slain soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

“When the news came out regarding the alleged irregularities, I, as head of agency, ordered an investigation. The results of the investigation showed that the DND-AFP personnel who handled this project, in various stages, complied with the mandated procedures, and no irregularities were committed,” Secretary Gazmin said.

“Based on this, I stand with the DND-AFP officials, and I will lead the defense of these men and women, who were just doing their respective assignments, to further advance our most important program, the AFP Modernization Program,” the defense chief added. “We know that public service entails a lot of sacrifices, even being exposed to untruthful and malicious accusations.”

Secretary Gazmin has also charged Alvarez, along with her fellow RASI agent Thach Hoang Nguyen, with falsification and use of falsified documents in connection with the submission of fake or otherwise spurious documents in RASI’s bid for the contract of the UH-1 aircraft.

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