



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE QUICK NOTES

Second Regular Session, 19th Congress

2nd Public Hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Chairperson: Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa

7 May 2024, Tuesday, 10 AM, Padilla Room, Senate

Re: Investigation on the alleged PDEA leaks

Background

- The leaks of the supposed Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) documents raised concerns not only on its veracity but also on confidentiality, security, and data privacy.
- PDEA Director General Moro Virgilio Lazo denied the existence of the supposed PDEA documents, citing that it was not in the data monitoring system, which is now called PORMIS or Plans and Operations Reports Management Information System.
- According to former PDEA intelligence officer and Anti-Drug Advocate Laban ng Pamilyang Pilipino Center for Investigative Regulatory Compliance Chair Jonathan Morales, the documents were existent.

Highlights of the 1st hearing

- PDEA Director General Lazo established the questionable reputation of Mr. Morales, citing the misdeclaration in his personal data sheet and the cases filed against him. The other PDEA agents also denied any knowledge of the operation claimed by Mr. Morales.
- Mr. Morales refuted Director General Lazo’s statement. He said that the leaked confidential documents were processed by him but he had nothing to gain from divulging such information. He added that the denial on PDEA’s part was due to the fact that the person involved is President Marcos Jr. He mentioned former Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, and other PDEA personnel, including PDEA Investigation Chief Martin Francia, and former PDEA contractual employee Dave Curioso, to prove his point.
- Senator Dela Rosa remarked that the proceedings reached a deadlock. He noted that the leaked documents appeared to have been pulled out from a file

folder, as evidence by the puncher marks at the top of the pages containing specific information.

Possible Points for Discussion

1. Given the conflicting claims, the questions still remain: Are the PDEA documents existent? If it is, who leaked the PDEA documents? If it does not exist, who fabricated the documents? What was the motive behind the fabrication? If such information was true at all, what was done about it by the PDEA then if Mr. Morales could still remember?
2. The statements from the invited resource persons mentioned during the first hearing (former Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, former PDEA contractual employee Dave Curioso, social media vlogger Bb. Maharlika and a certain Atty. Delgado) will also be heard.
3. What are the possible impact/implications of the leakage with regard to confidentiality, national security, and data privacy?
4. In light of the discrepancies and allegations surrounding the leaked documents, what legislative steps should be taken to ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity within law enforcement agencies like the PDEA?