

Fire her, Rody

Written by **Ninez Cacho-Olivares**

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Rody Duterte was on a firing spree last week, having kicked out of his administration some five of his appointees.

He missed one, however. Rody should also have fired his Environment Secretary, Gina Lopez, who has this habit of accusing just about anybody, whether mining magnates, congressmen and senators as well as reporters, of having been paid to either criticize her or, in the case of the members of the bicameral Commission on Appointments (CA), bought by miners with millions. These insults, she always makes, and Lopez almost always uses as her excuse, if not her justification, the cause of her “passion” for the environment and for the poor.

Before she was scheduled to appear before the CA, Lopez had accused the CA members of having been bribed by the big mining companies P50 million each. She had to apologize for claiming this without providing a shred of evidence.

Just last week, Lopez insultingly berated Business World reporter Janina Lim, who covers the agriculture and mining beat, calling her a “f*cking reporter” who has no heart for the poor, and admitted that she does not like Lim.

This stemmed from Lim having written about Lopez’s illegal orders that went against the Mines and Geosciences Bureau recommendation of fine as penalty.

Lopez bumped into Lim, and started berating her, and in the presence of another reporter.

Lim was doing her job and had asked Lopez to elaborate on her order for miners to set aside more money apart from what they were required to contribute to a “rehabilitation fund” for formerly mined lands.

Just on this matter, Lopez flared up saying, “You know, you guys should do your work, but why don’t you have a heart for the poor? Where’s your heart?” Lopez was to explain later in the day that it was a “repartee that took place in a stairway. Without anyone there. It is unfortunate that this is hitting the news. I personally feel it’s like looking for some kind of hole to punch, I would have much rather preferred that words said in a stairway be left in the privacy for which it is meant.”

But realizing that she had caused a furor in media, Lopez was quoted as saying that she was rushing to a TV interview “and I was already very late. I was accosted by Janina Lim of BusinessWorld in the stairway. She is young

and persistent — but I have often been irritated by her line of questioning. She was not the best person to meet while rushing for an appointment. So I lost my cool with her — which has some history since she has been covering the DENR beat for many months.

She expects compassion when she has none?”

I doubt that Lim has no heart. In all probability it is Lopez who has neither heart nor a working brain.

She claims to have a heart, but looks down on “employees,” as she called Lim being “just a “f*cking employee.”

But it is Lopez who does not appear to have a working brain, since she makes her own laws that and orders that are contrary to law.

If she had a working brain, she should know that she cannot just make her own laws, as these belong exclusively to Congress. Even orders any Cabinet secretary comes up with cannot be contrary to established and mandated regulations that are in existence.

Who is Lopez to think that she can order the closure of any mines just on her say so, and even demand that miners cough up millions for a “foundation” on keeping the environment clean.

Even during the CA hearings, it was so clear from the oppositors to her confirmation on her not even knowing the laws and regulations. It was made so clear to the public during the hearing that she is so incompetent at her job and she knows nothing about managing a department.

Rody said that if there is even a whiff of corruption involving any of his officials in the Executive department, that official will be fired.

Well Rody, there is more than a whiff of corruption that envelopes Gina Lopez. There are documents that show she had gone on a trip to Paris with her staff, which was all paid for by a firm, from plane trips to hotels to meals and everything else, in exchange for a clearance or something to do with that firm’s business related to Lopez’s department. The firm got an approved contract from her.

That should be more than enough for Rody to fire her.

But if he still doesn’t fire her, the CA can reject her, and she can no longer be reappointed by Rody.

It is time Filipinos are rid of Gina Lopez.

<http://www.tribune.net.ph/commentary/fire-her-rody>