

# Cop axed for extortion, another suspended

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Two police officers have been sanctioned by the **Quezon City People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB)** for alleged extortion, the local government said yesterday.

The PLEB District 5 dismissed Pat. Michael Gragasin from the service after he was found guilty of grave misconduct for robbery and extortion.

The board also found Cpl. Alex Chocowen guilty of less grave misconduct for attempted extortion. He was suspended for 51 days.

"In just five months, the reorganized PLEB has made contributions to the city. Abusive police officers have no place in the city," Mayor Joy Belmonte said in a statement.

Gragasin reportedly asked P30,000 for the release from detention of the complainant's brother, who was arrested in 2016.

While waiting for Gragasin, the complainant said she was approached by Chocowen who asked for P3,000 so that her brother would no longer need to attend the hearing of the case.

Chocowen also asked the complainant for a drink.

Belmonte commended the board for acting swiftly on the complaint.

"I am one with you in your collective vision to be the show window of the PLEB in the country," Belmonte said, adding that the board has resolved its backlog cases.

Meanwhile, a dismissed police officer who has been allegedly extorting money from truck drivers at the Navotas Fish Port was arrested on Friday night.

Don De Quiroz Osias II was nabbed by members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group.

Police said four fish delivery truck drivers complained that Osias allegedly extorted money from them while wearing a PNP uniform.

During the operation, the suspect allegedly "tried to draw something from his waist" after he was approached by police, prompting the operatives to shoot him.

The suspect was taken to Tondo Medical Center for treatment.

Police said charges of robbery, extortion, direct assault, resisting arrest and usurpation of authority would be filed against Osias before the Navotas prosecutor's office.

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