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# Chavit: They can fire me but I won't resign

by REINIR PADUA AND MARICHU VILLANUEVA  
Philstar.com

MANILA – Deputy National Security Adviser Luis “Chavit” Singson on September 7 said he will not resign or take a leave of absence from his post despite Malacañang’s urging him to do so amid the controversy surrounding his rift with his live-in partner.

“(They could) remove me from my post if they want to. It’s okay with me,” Singson told *The Star* over the phone from abroad on September 7 afternoon.

According to Singson, he has not talked with President Arroyo regarding the matter since the controversy broke out about the case filed against him by estranged partner Rachel “Che” Tiongson.

“But I won’t resign. I won’t take a leave of absence. I am innocent. I’m the victim here,” the former Ilocos Sur governor said.

Singson maintained that he never used his current position as deputy NSA when he had Tiongson monitored over suspicion that she was cheating on him.

“I never used this office. In fact, I often spend my own money for that office,” Singson said in Filipino.

Singson also claimed he was the one who “saved” Tiongson and her alleged boyfriend from his men, who would have killed the two lovers.

#### Behaved

“I’m very well behaved!” Singson declared on September 7 in response to an earlier Palace admonition for him to behave after he admitted last week that he had beaten up Tiongson.

Singson reiterated that he was ready to face the charges filed against him by Tiongson for the beating that she and her boyfriend experienced.

Tiongson had filed charges against him before a Quezon City family court.

Interviewed on September 7 over radio dzBB, Singson sang a different tune, claiming he had in fact intervened to prevent his men from beating to death his estranged wife and her reported lover last Aug. 22 in an apartment in Quezon City.

“Behave *nga ako eh. Kung hindi ako behave, patay na yan* (Not at all. If I wasn’t behaved, they’d be dead),” Singson quipped.

In a new version of the incident, Singson said he was the one who stopped his men from killing Tiongson and her boyfriend, Richard Catral, after they caught the two together inside the apartment that he rented for his estranged wife. Singson did not identify his men except to say that they were the ones who did the surveillance of Tiongson and Catral.

Singson explained he only wanted to confront the two when his men caught them together at the apartment.

“*Kaso lang nang umakyat na ako, nabugbog sila. Ako nga ang nagligtas dahil papatayin na nga sila. Huwag n’yong galawin kako dahil tayo nag-iisip naman, hindi naman tayo masamang tao* (But when I got there, they were already beaten up. I was the one who saved them because they would have been killed. I told my men not to touch them, we are not bad people),” Singson

recounted.

But when pressed on who would kill the two, Singson replied, “*Yung mga sumubaybay sa kanila. Akala nila utos ko na. Hindi kako, gusto ko lang malaman, para ma-confront ko lang, huwag n’yo galawin* (Those who were tailing them. They thought I ordered it. But I told them I only want to know, to confront them, but don’t touch them).”

“*Ako lang ang umawat. Masuwerte sila. Kung wala ako dun, patay na ang mga iyan. Kung tutuusin mo, niligtas ko lang sila. Kung masama akong tao, pinatay ko na yung lalaki* (I stopped them, they’re lucky. If I weren’t there, they’d be dead. In truth, I saved them. If I were a bad person, I’d have killed the man),” he insisted.

Afterwards, he said, he even allowed the man to walk away and told him to call the police and file a complaint “*para makita itong mga ginagawang nilang kabastusan* (so these awful things they’re doing will be exposed),” he fumed.

“*Ayaw ko naman ng ganung krimen. Marami namang babae dyan* (I don’t commit such crimes; there are so many other women),” he said.

He denied having “whipped” Tiongson, saying she is a liar. “*Yung pambubugbog ng babae, masama yan* (Beating up women is bad). So I hope those who are supporting her are just confused.”

“She is not a battered wife,” Singson swore.

Singson said he has many other evidence against Tiongson but is withholding them for the sake of their children. But he would present these evidence before the courts.

“*Kung tutuusin mo, ako ang biktima dito na pinapasama lang, sinasakyan ng mga abugado gustong kumita ng pera or may mga politicians dyan na gustong pumapal at yun iba hindi nila naiintindihan ang nangyayari* (I’m the victim here who’s being made to be the villain by lawyers out to make a buck or politicians playing to the public, and others who don’t know what’s happening),” he lamented.

Singson pointed out this was not the first time he caught his wife being unfaithful. Previous to Catral, he confirmed that Tiongson had an affair with actor Cogee Domingo. But since they have children, he said, he only sent Tiongson out of their home.

“*Hindi ko sila ginalaw* (I didn’t touch her). So that would prove to everybody I don’t maltreat women,” Singson underscored.

Singson admitted he has other “girlfriends” before and even while living in with Tiongson. He disclosed he gave his women their own homes and businesses that gave them livelihood after separating from him. Had Tiongson done the same in their relationship, Singson said it would not have reached this situation.

“*May pagka-tanga din ang babaeng ito. Di n’ya alam na s’ya ang tatamaan at ang anak n’ya* (She’s stupid. She doesn’t realize she’s the one who’ll get hurt, she and her daughter),” Singson rued.

Singson said he felt sorry for their 12-year-old daughter who saw her mother on TV saying she was a battered woman. He quoted his daughter as saying: “My mom is a liar.”

That’s why, Singson said, Tiongson filed a custody case in court so that she could get money

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