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12 May 2016

Thursday

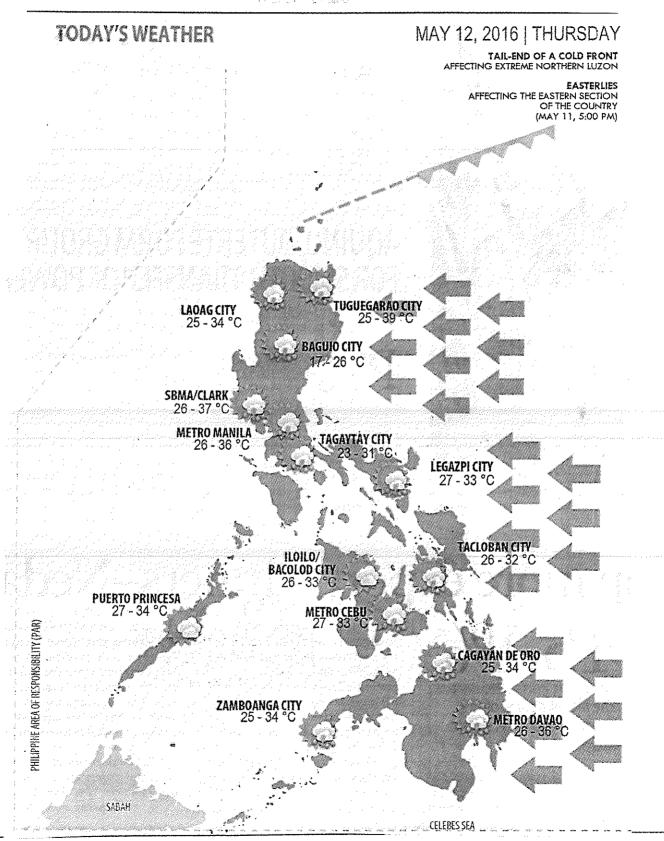
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# Comelec won't stop quick count

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will not stop the unofficial quick count as requested by vice presidential candidate Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"It is provided for by the law so that we can have transparent elections. The people have the right to information so that there is no room for doubt on the credibility of the elections. If we hide it, people may think there is something wrong," Comelec Commissioner Kowena Guanzon fold a press briefing.

In an earlier report. Marcos urged the Comelec to terminate the ougoing unofficial count being conducted by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) amid allegations of digday-buwas or vote padding and vote shaving

Guanzon said Marcos must first life a petition with the poll body before they could act on his request to stop the PPCRV quick count. Terhaps Senator Marcos can give us substantial evidence of bad faith of trand. The en hanc can consider that but other wise, under the law the quick count is allowed even while the canvassing of votes is still origonic, said Cuanzon.

She added "He has not written us. His law vers have not filed anything. We cannot act on anything that has not been filed.

Marcos camp also said that the count has reached the 90-percent mark and that it was designed not to be completed to avoid Turn to Page 4

### Comelec From Page 1

the possibility of confusion and conflict with the official canvass.

Marcos appealed to his supporters to stay calm in the wake of his camp's claim of irregularities in the unofficial quick count of votes that favors the administration's vice presidential candidate, Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo.

Robredo and Marcos are in a tight race for the vice presidency, with Robredo ahead in the counting by over 200,000 votes as of Tuesday afternoon.

Marcos also sought clarification from the Comelec regarding a new computer command introduced in its transparency server after the May 9 elections. This allegedly triggered the dramatic increase of votes for Robredo and the continuing regression of Marcos votes.

Francisca Huang, Marcos legal counsel, told reporters during a press conference at the senator's headquarters in Mandaluyong City that they received information that at about 7:30 p.m. on May 9, a new command was introduced to the transparency server – the same server from which the PPRCV obtains data for its quick count.

"Apparently, the execution of this computer command was able to alter the hash codes of the packet data. Furthermore, the introduction of the new script is suspect because it was after this time that Sen. Marcos' lead over Rep. Robredo started to erode at a rather distinctive pattern," she said.

Huang asked the Comelec if the poll body knew about the introduction of the new script and how the script affected the data and data reception of the transparency server.

She also said that there has been an understanding that the transparency server could only receive data from the vote counting machines (VCMs).

"In this regard, we are rather perplexed as to how the PPCRV quick count reached over 95 percent of the total clustered precincts and 100 percent in certain cities and provinces. We confirmed that a number of VCMs were unable to transmit to the local board of canvassers in certain cities and provinces," she said.

Huang also manifested their continuing reservation about the PPCRV quick count because it ran counter to the exit polls in all areas nationwide,

which show Marcos won the vice presidential race.

### Miriam defends Marcos

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who lost anew in her latest bid for the presidency, has broken her silence and defended her runningmate Marcos in questioning his slide in the ongoing quick count that placed him second behind Robredo.

"The rollercoaster ride of vice-presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr. invites comparison with a garrison state. In such a state, the authoritarian government feels free to manufacture numbers as they are needed," Santiago said in a brief statement issued by her media relations office yesterday morning.

"I find it astounding that Marcos should have led in the vice presidential surveys for many months, until the penultimate month, when suddenly the administration could jack up survey results to finally overtake him," Santiago said.

"This is an eventuality that will cause the people of the democratic world to shake their heads and question the values of the society it produced," Santiago said.

Santiago placed fifth and last in the presidential race,

with frontrunner Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte having over 15 million votes in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) transparency server partial and unofficial results as of 10:38 a.m. yesterday, and Liberal Party standard-bearer Manuel Roxas II a distant second with 9,650,776 votes. Santiago had 1,415,876 votes.

"As long as we stand for something, all our energy and time are not lost," Santiago also posted on Twitter yester-

day morning.

She posted her photo, with a caption that read: "Cheer up, people! Ganyan lang talaga ang buhay (that's life). The night is darkest just before the sun rises."

"You have to have a place where all is quiet, and you're judged not for what you have achieved, but just for what you are. And if the world has turned against you, there must be a place where you can return, where you are welcomed with the same open arms, because they know that politics comes and goes, but victory and defeat are the same," she added.

But Malacañang categorically denied yesterday accusations made by Santiago that the administration was padding Robredo's numbers.

"The allegation is untrue

and unfounded. The Commission on Elections is fully responsible for overseeing the automated election system and the executive branch has no part in this process," Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

Coloma also denied claims of Marcos that the ruling Liberal Party has a plan to impeach presumptive president Duterte and eventually install Robredo by making sure she wins the vice presidency.

"A very wide imagination has been used for that scenario," Coloma said in Filipino in a press briefing yesterday.

Coloma said this is just a figment of some people's imagination. Impeachment could only originate from Congress and there is still no assurance that the new Congress would be dominated by administration lawmakers.

Marcos' campaign adviser, Abakada party-list Rep. Jonathan dela Cruz, said they have their own count that showed Marcos leading in the tight vice

presidential race.

"Not only confident, we are certain because we already have a count and we know how the count will go," said Dela Cruz at a media forum in Greenhills, in San Juan City.

He noted that more than a

million votes, including votes from overseas Filipino workers, are not yet transmitted and they believe that the senator has enough votes to offset the slim lead of Robredo.

"We already have the results in our documents. We will compare these (results) with whatever will be released by the Comelec (Commission on Elections) because up to now there is a lot of transmission going on," said Dela Cruz.

Meanwhile, supporters of Marcos are reportedly using social media to gather participants to stage protest rallies to show indignation over the alleged irregularities.

"I am appealing to my supporters who are planning to hold rallies to stay calm,"

Marcos said.

Marcos' supporters also arrived at his campaign headquarters in Mandaluyong City to show their support.

He told his supporters and even non-supporters who are advocating honest elections to remain calm but vigilant, and refrain from taking actions that would only ignite violence, hurt people, destroy properties and disturb the normal activities of ordinary people.

- With Rainier Allan Ronda, Perseus Echeminada, Christina Mendez, Non

Alquitran

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# The Manila Times

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# IS claims election day attack in Basilan

BY MOH SAADUDDIN CORRESPONDENT

OTABATO CITY: The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack in Maluso, Basilan on election day, saying it was carried out by Jund al-Khilafah or soldiers of the caliphate in the Philippines (JKP), the international terrorist organization said in a statement grabbed from their websites and online forums on Tuesday.

"By the grace of Allah, a group from [JKP] attacked a crusader army position in the village of Tubigan, Maluso," the IS said in a statement.

"One of the crusader army was killed and another was wounded while the remaining soldiers fled during the clashes. The mujahideen seized light weapons and returned to their positions safely. Praised be to Allah," it said.

But according to the military and police, the attack on Monday in the remote village of Tubigan in Maluso town was a killing incident involving a former civilian volunteer organization (CVO) member, who is a paralyzed man. The assault also wounded the victim's son.

The fatality was identified as Aga Masdal, 36, while his 15-year-old son, whose name was not given, was injured in the daring attack.

Masdal sustained multiple gunshot wounds, but authorities said he was able to fight back to his assailants using his own firearm.

Police said at least six fully armed men swooped down on Masdal's house and opened fire on the victims.

The military tried to pursue the suspects but failed.

The report said the police have filed murder and frustrated murder charges against the attackers, but did not provide identities of the suspects.

On April 9, the IS (or ISIS) and the JKP both claimed responsibility for the attack in Basilan that killed 18 soldiers and wounded more than 50 others, including civilians, in the troubled Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The JKP this week also owned up the bombing of Tower 25 of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) in Ramain town in Lanao del Sur on May 3, days before Monday's synchronized elections.

Government and military officials, however, have repeatedly announced that they were confident the international terrorist group has not gained foothold in the country.

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# Four kidnapped Indonesian sailors freed

By ELENA L. ABEN

Four Indonesian sailors seized and held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) for nearly a month were released yesterday, the military said yesterday

The Indonesians were immediately taken to Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Busbus, Jolo, for physical and medical examination.

Brig Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, deputy of the AFP Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), and Col. Jose Faustino Jr., commander of the Army 501st Brigade, received the Indonesian hostages from Sulu Gov. Abdusakur "Toto" Tan II.

"At about 2 p.m. today (Wednesday), the local government in Jolo, Sulu, turned over to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Joint Task Force Sulu the four remaining Indonesian hostages who were earlier kidnapped off the waters of Tawi-Tawi," said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

"All four Indonesians are in good condition. The hostage release was successfully conducted by good cooperation between the Indonesian government and the Philippines," said >6

### Four kidnapped... 41

Indonesia President Joko Widodo.

The four Indonesian sailors were in good health, the reports added.

"Arrangements are now being finalized for the handover of the Indonesians nationals to Indonesian authorities," said Padilla.

The victims were seized by the ASG around 7 p.m. last April 15 while sailing in seawaters between Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi and Lahad Datu, Sabah.

Military officials had earlier said the group of ASG leader Hatib Sawadjaan is believed behind the abduction.

Last May 1, 10 other Indonesian hostages held by the militant group

were released following a month-long ordeal.

The victims were kidnapped March 26 while sailing off Languyan in Tawi-Tawi. The victims were initially reported missing, but two days later, authorities said they were snatched by the ASG.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding at least seven other foreign hostages – four Malaysians, a Canadian tourist, a Norwegian resort owner, and a Dutch birdwatcher.

After the recent surge in kidnappings, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines agreed last week to launch joint patrols of a key waterway between their countries. (With a report from Agence France Presse)

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### Abus free 4 Indonesian captives

By ROEL PAREÑO

LAMITAN CITY, Basilan – Abu Sayyaf bandits released unharmed yesterday their four remaining Indonesian hostages to the Moro National Liberation Front following negotiations initiated by Nur Misuari.

No payment of ransom was reported.

"Brother Nur initiated the effort just like what he did to the 10 Indonesian captives who were freed earlier," said Habib Mujahab Hashim, MNLF Islamic Command Council chairman.

The Indonesians were turned over to the MNLF about 2 p.m. in an unspecified barangay.

However, intelligence sources on the

ground disclosed reports that the hostages were freed at 9 p.m. Tuesday in Barangay Silangkan.

A band of Abu Sayyaf under sub-leader Alden Bagade alias Sayning released the Indonesians to Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan Jr. at his house in Jolo about 3 p.m. on the same day.

Sulu police director Supt. Wilfredo Cayat said they were still validating the report

However, Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command spokesman, confirmed the release of the hostages.

- With Jaime Laude, Pia Lee-Brago

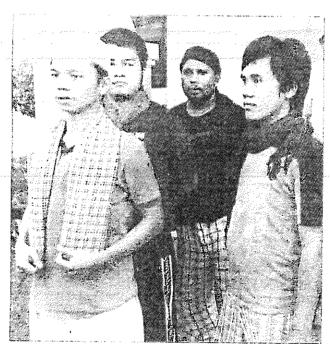


Photo provided by the office of the Sulu governor shows the four Indonesians in Jolo after they were released by the Abu Sayyaf yesterday. The bandit group had earlier freed 10 other Indonesians seized from a tugboat near the Malaysian border.

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# Aquino vows to pursue Abu Sayyaf to the very end

By GENALYN D. KABILING

ven as the Aquino government is unable to promise to totally wipe out the Abu Sayyaf group, it will continue to relentlessly pursue the terrorists to the very last day of his term.

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said security forces would continue to go after the Abu Sayyaf elements

without setting any deadline.

"We are determined to pursue this effort but it will not be reasonable to give a forecast or specific target dates because it is not that simple," Coloma said in Filipino when asked by reporters if the ASG problem could be resolved before Aquino steps down from office.

"Let's just say that up to its final minute, this administration will do everything necessary, will do its best to ensure the safety and welfare of Filipinos against forces sowing terror in the country," he added.

At present, Coloma said joint military and law enforcement operations have been launched to recover the hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf group in the south. He said these operations are "sensitive" so details cannot be disclosed to the public yet.

"But our countrymen can be as-

sured that these criminal elements will face the full force of the Republic," Coloma said.

President Aquino earlier authorized intensified pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf following the beheading of Canadian hostage John Bidsdel

Aquino said he would devote his energy "towards ensuring that, at the very least, this will be a very seriously degraded problem that I will pass on to my successor."

Apart from targeting to kidnap boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and television host Kris Aquino, the President also revealed there have been threats against his own life from the Abu Sayyaf group.

"I credit our security services for putting these threats to bed with both professionalism and discretion," Aquino said.

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# Gov't won't be able to wipe out Sayyaf

The Aquino government is unable to promise to totally wipe out the Abu Sayyaf Group before the end of its term.

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said security forces would continue to relentlessly pursue the Abu Sayyaf elements but it would be unfair to impose a deadline.

"We are determined to pursue this effort but it will not be reasonable to give a forecast or specific target dates because it is not that simple," Coloma said in Filipino when asked by reporters if the ASG problem could be resolved before President Aquino steps down from office.

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# Navy rescues boat full of voters off Tawi-Tawi

By Florante S. Solmerin

A DRIFTING passenger boat carrying 120 voters was rescued Tuesday by the Philippine Navy off Tawi-Tawi, Major General Gerardo Barrientos, commander of the Joint Task Force "Zambasulta" (Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi), said Wednesday.

boat conked out and had been our Navy," Barrientos said. drifting for three hours before In a statement, Navy spokes-

"The report says here that the they were found and rescued by

man Lued Lincuna confirmed the rescue operation by personnel of the gunboat Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas Dioscoro Papa (PG 381).

Barrientos said the gunboat was patrolling in the area when they spotted the drifting M/L Rabson overloaded with passengers in the vicinity of Sibutu and Sitangkai Islands at around 12 noon Tuesday.

The passenger boat was skip-

pered by a certain Mudap Amidil. "It was learned that the vessel had been dead on the water for more than three hours already after incurring engine trouble. It was carrying around 120 passengers who had just voted in Sitangkai municipality," Lincuna said.

Some of the passengers were transferred to the Navy gunboat and towed the passenger boat to

Bongao town.

May 2016



# Navy's first brand-new ship to arrive Saturday

By JAIME LAUDE

The Philippine Navy is getting its first tions. brand-new transport vessel Saturday.

The BRP Tarlac was built in Indonesia using South Korean technology.

The Landing Dock 601 has already departed PT Pal (Persero) shipyard at Surabaya, Indonesia last May 9 and is now en route to the Philippines, according to Capt. Lued Lincuna, Navy spokesman.

"The ship will anchor at the designated area, while the crew will undergo Customs, Immigration and Quarantine before she docks at Pier 13 on May 16," Lincuna said.

Navy seamen were sent to Indonesia to train in operating and handling the huge vessel.

One of the two strategic sealift vessels that the Philippines has procured from Indonesia's PT Pal shipbuilder costs P3.8

The arrival of Tarlac, a 7,000-ton landing platform dock ship, will be in time for the Navy's 118th anniversary where President Aquino is expected to attend and perform his last act as commanderin-chief.

This acquisition is under the modernization program of the Armed Forces to bolster the Navy's sealift capabilities in times of disaster and seaborne opera-

At any given time, the huge vessel can transport huge volumes of logistics as well as troops.

The strategic sealift vessel can also accommodate three helicopters, as well as smaller gunboats.

It is also designed to serve as a forward naval hospital in times of natural and man-made calamities.

Tarlac's delivery came following a series of sea trials.

The second vessel of this type is now undergoing construction. Its expected delivery is scheduled either late this year or next year.

Meanwhile, a Navy gunboat towed to safety an overloaded motorized boat that had a technical problem in Tawi-Tawi.

The Dioscoro Papa chanced upon the M/L Rabson near Sibutu and Sitangkai Islands while on election-related patrol Tuesday noon, according to Lincuna.

The Rabson had been dead on the water for more than three hours due to engine trouble.

It was carrying around 120 passengers who had just voted in Sitangkai town. Some of them were transferred to the Navy gunboat and given water to drink.

The Dioscoro Papa immediately towed Rabson to safety. - With Alexis Romero

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# Joma, Digong set meeting in Europe

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Exiled Communist Party of the Philippines Davao. City Mayor Rodrigo congressional Priority Develop- meet before his oath-taking as "Digong" Duterte in Europe be-ment Assistance Fund (PDAF). fore he assumes the presidency. He said the President and

On his Facebook (FB) page yesterday, Sison also urged Duterte to order the arrest of President Aquino and Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison Abad for plunder in connection is looking forward to meet with the alleged misuse of the

Secretary Abad were "responsible for looting and unprecedented corruption" in the allocation of the PDAF, or pork barrel, which the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional.

"It is the hope that we can he promised during my Skype

JOMA/A6



RENDEZVOUS IN EUROPE Jose Maria Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines founder, hopes to meet presumptive President Rodrigo Duterte in Europe before the latter assumes office in Malacañang. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

# Joma, Digong set meeting in Europe

#### From page Al

conference with him on April 25. He said he would come soon after [he is elected President]," Sison said in an online interview with the Inourer on Wednesday on his anticipated meeting with Duterte.

Sison said representatives of the CPP and Duterte were holding preparatory talks for the visit, the date of which he did not disclose.

"I expect to meet President Duterte soon in Europe, whether the meeting is preceded by, concurrent with or followed by preliminary meetings of the GPH (Government of the Philippines) and NDFP (National Democratic Front of the Philippines) negotiating panels," Sison said.

The CPP leader hopes that the meeting would be held before Duterte's oath-taking on June 30.

#### Video recording

Sison sent a video recording of his Skype conversation with Duterte, where the Davao mayor mentioned his plan to visit the CPP leader based in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Duterte, in the video recording; said his meeting with Sison was aimed at preparing the agenda for the resumption of peace talks and threshing out related issues.

Sison, in the Inquirer interview, also welcomed the declaration of Duterte's spokesperson, Peter Laviña, that the incoming President may release jailed communist rebels.

In an interview with Agence France-Presse on Tuesday, Lavinagalso disclosed that Duterte would allow Sison and other exiled communist leaders to return to the country for the resumption of the peace talks and to review the status of political prisoners.

"Of course, I am hoping for the release of all political prisoners," Sison said.

"They have long been unjustly detained on false charges of common crimes by the Arroyo and Aquino regimes," he added.

Their release, Sison said, "will be conducive to an immediate mutual ceasefire and cooperation and the accelerated negotiation of the comprehensive agreements on social, economic and political reforms."

He said the release of political prisoners had been done during the administrations of Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

Sison said communist rebels were open to the crafting of a new democratic Constitution and to Duterte's proposal to study federalism as a form of government for the country.

#### Political will

In a previous interview, Sison said "political will," for the sake of peace, is key to end the more than 40 years of armed conflict between the government and the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the CPP

Also earlier, Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDFP peace panel, said the return to the peace table would depend on the release of political prisoners and

"peace consultants."

Among the 528 political prisoners and 17 NDFP consultants are spouses Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, whom the government tagged as top officials of the CPP-NPA. The two were arrested in Cebu province in With a report March 2014. from Nikko Dizon

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# AFP: Election 2016, generally peaceful

Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City- "The Filipino people have spoken, and we must all now unite as one nation" stated by the acting Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Glorioso Miranda, AFP during the Assessment of a Generally Peaceful Elections by the Armed Forces of the Philippines on May 10, 2016.

AFP congratulate all officially declared winners of May 9 national and local elections.

LT General Miranda commended the strength of our democracy with another peaceful and free election. The AFP is grateful with the Comelec's announcement of the massive turnout of voters, as this symbolizes the people's confidence in the credibility of our electoral system.

AFP assured that they will continue their mandate to safeguard the inviolability of the ballot and ensure the completion of the electoral process.

AFP also expressed their recognition to the death of PVT Louieden Quebec along with PFC Michael P. Cagata who was wounded while they were delivering election equipment in Northern Samar they were hit by a land mine and ambushed by the NPA last May 8.

On May 9 in Matnog Sorsogon, 2LT Ariel P. Cayton and SGT Jovintino Cerafic were also wounded after a group of NPA attacked their team while they were conducting election patrols.

The acting chief of staff congratulates all the uniformed personnel for a job well done. He also thanked the PNP, Comelec and partners from other agency for making the election peaceful and successful. He stated that AFP will not be swayed in their commitment to the Filipino people, that it is their collective responsibility to continue to uphold democracy and ensure smooth transition of power from the current administration to the next. (EDS/APPLE/MCAG)

# PATROL || Navy Gunboat Towed Stranded Vessel to Safety

Headquarters Philippine Navy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila – Philippine Navy (PN) gunboat Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas (BRP) Dioscoro Papa (PG 381) towed to safety an overloaded motorized boat at the vicinity of Sibutu and Sitangkai Islands, Tawi-Tawi around 12 noon Tuesday, May 10.

PG 381 was conducting an election-related patrol when it chanced upon the vessel named M/L Rabson skippered by a certain Mudap Amidil. It was learned that the vessel had been dead on the water for more than three hours already after incurring engine trouble. It was carrying around 120 passengers who had just voted at Sitangkai Municipality.

PG 381 immediately assisted the safe towing of M/L Rabson to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. Some of the passengers were transferred to the assisting PN vessel. All of them were also provided potable water.

The PN in addition to its tasks for internal and external security shall be an active partner of government in disaster response and relief operations.

www.dwdd.com

# ONLINE NEWS

# PRE-BID || DND-GA to acquire 1,503 metric tons of metallic raw materiel

MANILA — The Department of National Defense-Government Arsenal (DND-GA) has allocated the sum of PHP502,084,239 for the acquisition of 1,502 metric tons of metallic raw materiel.

This is three years' worth of supply of metallic raw materials for the DND-GA which is the mandated manufacturer of all bullets used by government security forces.

Funding will be sourced from the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2016 and Multi-Year Obligation Authority 2015.

Delivery for 2016, which is 460 metric tons and worth PHP153,561,384, must be delivered within 180 calendar days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

While those intended for 2017, which is equivalent to 500 metric tons and worth Php167,138,236, must be delivered not later Feb. 15 of that year.

For 2018, the last shipment of 542 metric tons of metallic raw materiel worth PHP181,384,619, must be delivered not later than Feb. 15, 2018.

Interested bidders must have completed a similar project within the last five years.

Pre-bid conference is slated for May 17, 11 a.m. at the DND-Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, Basement, Left Wing, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Meanwhile, bid opening is on May 31, 11am at the same venue.

www.dwdd.com