

Misuari going in a day or two

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By R. Manirajan

PETALING JAYA, Wed: Former Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao governor Nur Misuari is to be deported in two or three days once authorities complete their investigation.

"The police and the Immigration Department are still conducting investigations on Misuari and his followers, especially his links with several other matters which involve

national security," according to a highly-placed source.

Another source said the cabinet today reaffirmed its decision that Nur Misuari will be deported as soon as investigations are completed and the Philippine government is ready to receive him.

Philippine Ambassador Jose Brillantes said he is not aware of the matter. "As far as I know discussions are still going on between both the

turn to **PAGE 4**

Misuari no ordinary deportee, says envoy

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from **FRONT PAGE**

governments. We are waiting for Manila to give the green light or the right signal for his deportation," he said.

Asked if the Philippine government is ready to receive Misuari, he said it is and he added that Misuari is not an "ordinary deportee".

Misuari, who fled after declaring war on Manila on the eve of elections for a new ARMM governor, was arrested with six followers in a pre-dawn raid on Pulau Jampiras, off Sabah, on Nov 24 for illegal entry.

Deputy Prime Minister Datu Seri Abdullah

Ahmad has repeatedly said that Misuari will be deported as soon as possible as the Philippine government is ready to receive him.

"We do not want to keep him too long. On the policy level, we have already decided what to do," he had.

Manila has asked the Malaysian government to deny political asylum to Misuari and prevent him from seeking refuge in other countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said that Malaysia will not give political asylum to Misuari, who leads the Moro National Liberation Front

(MNLF) or protect rebels from other countries.

The Philippine Army has quelled successive uprisings by Misuari's followers in Jolo island and in the port city of Zamboanga as elections were held to pick his successor as governor.

Misuari faces rebellion charges in a Jolo court for allegedly inciting the uprising, a crime punishable by a 20-year prison term.

In **MANILA**, Philippine president Gloria Arroyo said Misuari should be added to the US list of suspected international terrorists who pose a threat to American interests.

see also **PAGE 35**