

24 NOV 2001

Misuari-Brillantes

PHILIPPINES APPLAUDS MALAYSIA FOR SWIFT ACTION

By: Alan Ting

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- The Philippine Government today applauded Malaysia for its efficient and swift action in arresting the former Governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Nur Misuari, who had entered Malaysia illegally this morning.

Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, Jose Brillantes, said the arrest of Nur Misuari was good news and his government was very grateful to the Malaysian Government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We express our sincere gratitude to the Malaysian Government which had acted upon our request," he told Bernama when contacted here today.

Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai today told a news conference at Bukit Aman National Police Headquarters that Misuari was arrested along with six of his followers on Pulau Jampiras, in Sabah waters at 3.30 am today for entering Malaysia illegally.

Misuari is wanted by the Philippine Government for declaring war against the government.

Norian said Misuari and his followers were believed to have entered Malaysia illegally via Jolo Island in Southern Philippines but declined to say where the group was being held.

He said police would make efforts to hand over Misuari to the Philippine Government as soon as possible.

Brillantes said he had informed Manila about the news and was awaiting further instructions.

"I received a call about 3pm today from Bukit Aman informing me that the Malaysian police had arrested Nur Misuari," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AT NZ AAM