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Misuari to be deported soon, says Syed Hamid

PUTRAJAYA, Sat. - Nor Misuari, the former Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao Governor would be sent back to the Philippines soon, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Syed Hamid said arrangements were being made with Philippine officials and Misuari would be sent back "as soon as possible".

However, it is not yet certain if Philippine officials will be here to take Misuari to Manila, where he faces rebellion charges.

"It is being discussed. All other plans are going on well," Syed Hamid told reporters at his Hari Raya open house held at Wisma Putra.

Recently, Philippines' Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Misuari would be sent back by Jan 15.

Syed Hamid also said Misuari's lawyer, Elly Pamatong, should be allowed to make statements about his client but only through the proper channels.

The AFP had reported that Pamatong would be appealing for Misuari's release to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Pamatong said the reasons for Misuari's detention were no longer valid.

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