



P N P News Release

Authority : PSSUPT LEANDRO A ESPINA PNP
Public Information Office
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Tel: +6327253179 Fax: +6327255115
Date : 19 June 2002

ECLEO IN POLICE CUSTODY

Ruben Ecleo Jr., Divine Master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) is now in police custody to face criminal charges for alleged parricide.

Ecleo voluntarily surrendered to Caraga Region PNP Director, Chief Superintendent Alberto Olario at the PBMA mansion in San Jose, Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte at 9:00 am today.

Ecleo was accompanied by his mother, Rep. Glenda Ecleo, his brother Benny, a certain Atty. Salatandre, and two close aides.

According to PNP Director for Police Community Relations, Chief Superintendent Crescencio L Maralit, Ecleo will be brought to the Camp Crame Today to undergo investigation by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

The surrender was preceded by a tense stand-off starting at 4:00pm yesterday when Olario personally came over to the PBMA mansion to serve an arrest warrant on Ecleo.

Violence erupted at around 5:45 pm yesterday when armed men attacked police elements from the 14th Regional Mobile Group at.

Sporadic firing lasted until about 10:00 pm last night killing PO3 Rogelio Morandante and wounding PO1 Jubert Montenegro.

At least 16 still unidentified armed followers of Ecleo were killed. Police recovered three M16 rifles and an Ingram machine pistol belonging to Ecleo's followers during mopping-up operations.

Two other armed PBMA members were arrested -- Tanasio CABAHUG, 50 and Generoso ERMAC, 49, they yielded a cal. 38 revolver with six rounds of live ammunition.