



P N P News Release

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EBDANE COMMENDS POLICE & MILITARY UNITS FOR RE-CAPTURE OF LASAL PNP PRESSES MANHUNT FOR AL-GHOZI

PNP tracker teams operating in six regions of Mindanao were ordered today to press the manhunt for convicted terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-ghozi.

This developed as PNP Chief, Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr., today commended the 905th Provincial Mobile Group under Superintendent Beti Hadjula and Task Force "Tabak" of the AFP Southern Command for the re-capture of Omar Opik Lasal alias Mehran Abante in Zamboanga del Sur yesterday.

Lasal was arrested at a joint PNP-AFP checkpoint at 6:10 PM Wednesday in Camanga, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur, while aboard a commuter van with 12 other passengers bound for Pagadian City. The fugitive yielded a cal. 45 pistol and spare ammunition clips.

Ebdane has directed all concerned PNP Units and tracker teams to intensify the manhunt for Al-ghozi based on information gathered during the initial tactical debriefing of Lasal.

Lasal is currently under the custody of PNP and AFP investigators in Zamboanga City and may be flown to Manila any moment.

"We are confident that the arrest of Lasal will eventually lead us to the ultimate objective. We will be exploiting all the information gathered from him to track down Al-ghozi," Ebdane said.

The PNP Chief has instructed PRO-9 Director, Chief Superintendent Reynaldo Varilla to mobilize all tracker teams in the Provincial Police Offices in Western Mindanao, even as he alerted all Police Regional Offices to intensify manhunt operations within their areas of responsibility.

Lasal carried a P2-million reward for his capture offered by the DILG. Together with Al-ghozi and Abdulmukim Edris, he bolted his detention cell at the Intelligence Group compound in Camp Crame last July 14, 2003.

Edris was killed shortly upon his arrest in Lanao del Norte last August 7, 2003.

The PNP has fielded 67 tracker teams to re-capture all the fugitives. Thirty of these trackers teams are operating within the City and Provincial Police Offices in Mindanao.

the DILG has offered P10-million reward for Al-ghozi.