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MANILA -- The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Hungarian Water-technology Corporation (HWTC) on Wednesday signed a strategic cooperation agreement in a bid to beef up provision of safe and clean water in calamity-hit areas.

NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad, HWTC chief executive office Adrian Kiss and Hungarian Ambassador to the Philippines Dr. Jozcef Bencze signed the agreement.

This formally forged the partnership of two entities in implementing the project titled "Delivery of a mobile water treatment compact unit to supply drinking water to the population during emergency situations and natural disasters in the Philippines."

The equipment will be shipped in February 2020 and is expected to be commissioned by April.

Jalad, in an interview with reporters, said acquisition of the mobile water treatment compact unit will help address water supply concerns during times of calamities or disasters in the Philippines.

"We see that we need more of this kind of equipment that HWTC can provide for us. Especially the kind of equipment that can even process seawater. This is a need that HWTC can provide in addressing the gaps whenever disaster happens," the NDRRMC chief said.

NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal also said the agency welcomes the generosity of the HWTC and Hungary for the partnership and the water treatment technology being shared with the Philippines.

New PAF aircraft to help transport relief to Mindanao

MANILA – The Philippine Air Force (PAF) formally accepted on Monday the fourth Airbus Defense and Space C-295M medium transport/command-and-control aircraft that will help deliver relief goods to earthquake-hit Mindanao.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana presided the turnover ceremony held at the Haribon Hangar of the Clark Air Base in Pampanga on Monday afternoon, said PAF spokesperson, Major Aristides Galang, in a message to reporters.

The C-295M, the fourth in PAF service, was acquired as part of the Command-and-Control Fixed-Wing Turbo Prop Acquisition (C2FWTPA) Project under the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program.

Galang said the arrival of the fourth C-295M will boost the PAF's medium tactical airlift requirement of transporting troops and equipment, and support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The aircraft will also be utilized as a command-and-control aircraft to cater to the domestic air transport of the President and other national and strategic defense leaders of the country.

The PHP1.8-billion aircraft arrived in the Philippines last October.

Lorenzana also extended his congratulations to the PAF for

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BI on lookout for suspect in Generoso slay

MANILA — The Department of Justice (DOJ) has directed the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to issue an Immigration Look-out Bulletin Order against Tomasino Aledro, one of the four suspects in the murder of Dumaguete broadcaster and blocktimer Mercedario “Dindo” Generoso, the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PT-FoMS) said Monday.

Aledro was included in the BI's look-out list, as directed by DOJ Secretary Menardo Guevarra, following the filing of murder charges against the alleged suspects in the killing of Generoso, Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar said.

Andanar said the look-out order is effective since November 8.

“I immediately requested Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, our PTFoMS chair, to direct the Bureau of Immigration to issue a Look-Out Bulletin Order. Aledro was placed on the list since Friday, November 8,” said Andanar, co-chair of the PTFoMS, in a statement sent to reporters late Monday night.

It was also on November 8 when the murder case was lodged against Aledro, Teddy Salaw, retired police officer Glen Corsame, and active police officer Roger Rubio before the Dumaguete City prosecutor's office for their supposed links to Generoso's gruesome murder.

Aledro is the alleged owner of the Mitsubishi Strada pick-up truck reportedly driven by Salaw on the day Generoso was killed.

The pick-up truck, which was seen abandoned in Balabag village in Valencia, Negros Oriental, was supposedly used for Rubio's transfer to a waiting motorcycle driven by Corsame on November 7.

The motorcycle tailed the Hyundai Elantra of Generoso who instantly died after being shot several times by Rubio.

PTFoMs co-chairperson Undersecretary Joel Egco raised the possibility that Aledro might leave the country and reported to be a “financier” of numbers game Suertres and has a role in “illegal gambling operations in his native province”.

“He (Aledro) can use his financial resources to get out of the country,” Egco said.

Guevarra said he has already directed Dumaguete City inquest prosecutor Oscar Bokingkito to apply “as soon as possible” for a precautionary hold departure order against the suspects who remain scot-free.

A hold departure order prevents an individual from leaving the country.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.” – James 4:7