

Ex-Pasig mayor asks Comelec to reconsider poll protest

MANILA — The camp of former Pasig City mayor Robert Eusebio has asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc to reverse and set aside the decision of its Second Division junking his election protest against incumbent mayor Victor Ma. Regis Sotto.

In a 24-page motion for reconsideration filed by his lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, on September 6, Eusebio urged the seven-man en banc to give due course to his election protest.

Eusebio believed that the Commission en banc has the power to correct and rectify the error in the earlier ruling.

"With all due indul-

gence, herein Protestant would like to express herein its perception that after a detailed review and analysis of the division ruling herein sought to be reconsidered, that the same appears to serve as a final decision of the merito of the protest case instead of a mere resolution of protestee's special and affirmative defenses," said the MR, released on Wednesday.

"By touching, refuting and rebutting the allegations contained in the protest event issues and matters absolutely not raise by the protestee in its special and affirmative defenses — to protestant, constitutes a grave and grievous error

that must be corrected and rectified by the Honorable Commission through the granting of the instant Motion for Reconsideration," it added.

The MR said the poll body's Second Division "failed to clearly and distinctly state the relevant facts protestant may have failed to establish, if any, warranting the dismissal of his Protest."

"In other words, there is absolutely no discussion at all in the assailed Order how the Honorable 2nd Division arrived at its conclusive that the sworn statements attached to the Protest do not support or provide specific details on the averments to which they re-

fer to and the reasons why these sworn statements were considered self-serving and one-sided in Protestant's favor," it said.

Last month, in a unanimous decision, the poll body's Second Division junked the election protest for failure to show sufficient evidence of the supported irregularities in the last May polls.

The three-man division is headed by Commissioner Luie Guia and Commissioners Socorro Inting and Antonio Kho, Jr., as members.

Sotto led by 87,500 votes over his closest rival for the mayoralty post in the last May polls. (PNA)

AFP, Mislattel ink deal on telco facilities in military camps

MANILA -- Representatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Mindanao Islamic Telephone Company (Mislattel) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) allowing the new telco player to build its communications facilities in military camps and installations.

Maj. Gen. Adrian Sanchez Jr., AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Electronics, and Information Systems (CEIS), J6; and lawyer Adel Tamano, Mislattel chief administrative officer, signed the MOA at the AFP Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Based on the agreement, the AFP will determine specific locations with its rental value for use of Mislattel in the installation and management of its communications sites without undermining the operations of affected AFP units.

Mislattel is also required to "furnish all equipment, labor, and materials necessary to effect the co-location of its facilities and shoulders all expenses in connection with or incidental to the co-location" and payment of all taxes, permits, licenses, and other charges.

Payment will be made by providing CEIS equipment, upgrade, services, and training

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The Mislattel consortium, which will adopt the name Dito Telecommunity, is composed of Chelsea Logistics and Infrastructure Holdings Corp., Udenna Corp, and China Telecom.

It was conferred with the status of 'new major player' in the telecommunications industry by the National Telecommunications Commission on November 19 last year. (PNA)

to the AFP equivalent to the monetary value of the lease subject to inflation.

"Our MOA with other telcos significantly improved the ICT infrastructure of the AFP and we are optimistic that this opportunity will also bring great benefits to the armed forces," AFP Chief-of-Staff, Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, Jr. said.

Mislattel also "guarantees that the devices, equipment, and/or structures installed at the site provided by the AFP shall not be used to obtain classified information" as a measure to prevent electronic espionage.

The Mislattel consortium, which will adopt the name Dito Telecommunity, is composed of Chelsea Logistics and Infrastructure Holdings Corp., Udenna Corp, and China Telecom.

It was conferred with the status of new major player in the telecommunications industry by the National Telecommunications Commission on November 19, 2018.

"We at Dito Telecommunity are truly grateful to the AFP for this partnership. The rollout of Dito's towers is indeed one herculean feat. With this partnership with the AFP, we are nearer our goal of building a wide and robust network," Dito president and chief executive officer Dennis Uy said.

The signing was witnessed by retired Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Santiago Jr., chief technology officer of Mislattel and Col. Walter Icaro, chief of the Plans, Policy, Program and Budget Division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for CEIS, J6.

The MOA was subsequently endorsed by Madrigal for the approval of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"This partnership gives Mislattel a fair chance to compete with the other networks, given that the AFP also has similar partnership with Globe and Smart," Madrigal said. (PNA)

US funds P92.3-M project for Filipino kids with disabilities

MANILA -- The United States government on Thursday launched a PHP92.3-million project that seeks to strengthen the country's inclusive education for children with disability.

Dubbed as Gabay Project, the initiative will be led by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Resources for the Blind, Inc. for three years in targeted areas in Maasin City and the provinces of Batangas, Sorsogon, and Southern Leyte.

USAID Mission Director in the Philippines Lawrence Hardy II said the initiative would increase the capacity of service providers and community health workers to detect the needs of children with visual and hearing impairments.

One of its goals is also to improve the abilities of teachers in delivering appropriate learning plans for persons with disabilities.

"The United States is a strong advocate of disability policies and programs. We believe that people with disabilities have and should have all the same rights as others, including education, health, training and employment," Hardy said.

"As we launch this project today, we look for-

ward to what is to come," he added.

Dr. Yolanda Quijano, Project Gabay's chief of party, said the project will be well-coordinated with the Department of Education and the local government units and is seen to benefit around 1,800 Filipino children with disability by the end of its implementation in June 2022.

"We want to institutionalize this in the areas

and where they will become models. In the future, we want to introduce it to other local government units," she told reporters in an interview on the sidelines of the project launch.

The target beneficiaries of the program are children enrolled from Kindergarten to Grade 3 or the levels where a large percentage of kids are dropping out of school.

"One of the causes for

dropping out is that some of these children could not hear well or they could not see well so they choose to drop out from school. This is when some of our teachers have a hard time detecting," she said.

"So we're really looking at early detection here and then intervention for the kids as a model then, later on, institutionalize it in the other schools. The DepEd will help us," she added. (PNA)

Efforts to secure military communications ongoing: AFP

MANILA -- There are ongoing efforts and activities to secure all military communications against espionage, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff, Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., said Wednesday.

"Alam mo lahat ng countries vulnerable dyan (All countries are vulnerable to that) and of course, we cannot just simply inform you about what we are, yung ating mga ginagawa (what we do), but of course our (intelligence) units (have) programs and activities to ensure the security of our communications," Madrigal

said in a media interview.

The AFP chief also assured the public that all security aspects on their co-location memorandum of agreement (MOA), signed on Wednesday with Mindanao Islamic Telephone Company (Mislattel), has been looked into.

"Sa lahat naman ng ginagawa natin (In everything that we do) of course, sabi nga, ang (as we said, the) Armed Forces, part of our role is being security conscious," he added.

Under the MOA, the telecommunications firm will be allowed to build facilities in military camps and instal-

lations nationwide.

Madrigal said partnering with Mislattel is nothing new as similar MOAs have been entered with telco firms Smart and Globe.

Based on the agreement, the AFP will determine specific locations with its rental value for use of Mislattel in the installation and management of its communications sites without undermining the operations of affected AFP units.

Mislattel is also required to "furnish all equipment, labor, and materials necessary to effect the co-location of its facilities and shoul-