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MANILA -- Authorities seized PHP105,000 worth of kush (a variety of marijuana) and arrested a rapper and four persons in a buy-bust operation in Makati City on Wednesday night.

Makati police chief, Col. Rogelio Simon identified the suspects as FlipTop rapper Loonie, (Marlon Peroramas in real life), 33; David Rizon, 35; Ivan Agustin, 26; Albert Alvarez, 57, and Idyll Liza Diaz, 28 who were arrested at the basement of a condominium on Polaris Street in Barangay Poblacion around 8:45 p.m.

Seized during the police operation were 15 sachets of kush or high-grade marijuana concealed in a box made to look like a gift, a cellphone, and the buy-bust money.

After handing the marked money to undercover police, cops went out and nabbed the suspects.

Simon said the operation was a result of two-month surveillance operations against Peroramas who has been suspected

all along to be involved in illegal drugs, particularly marijuana.

He said the primary suspect was allegedly doing his illegal transactions during gigs.

Simon said there were also several pieces of evidence including text messages which will prove Peroramas' involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

Peroramas, however, denied involvement in illegal drug activities saying that he might have been framed up by some people holding a grudge against him.

He claimed he was in the area to meet a fan who had leukemia, an alibi which the police did not believe.

The suspects will be charged with violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002

Kush is a variety of hybrid marijuana that originated in South Asian countries and also cultivated in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.

Unlike the common cannabis plants propagated in the country, kush is a dwarf type of marijuana plant, making it more untraceable for authorities. In the Philippines, it is found in Kalinga and Sagada.

The proliferation of kush

started in Europe prior to its cultivation in Kalinga.

The price varies from 20 to 25 euros (PHP1,230 to PHP1,530) per gram.

In the Philippines, it is sold from PHP1 million to PHP1.5 million per kilogram. (PNA)

Suspects in killing of Kidapawan broadcaster indicted for murder

MANILA -- The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) on Thursday reported that murder charges have been filed against all three suspects in the killing of Eduardo Dizon, an anchor of Brigada News FM in Kidapawan City.

PTFoMS executive director, Undersecretary Joel Egco, said the case was filed on Wednesday, just as PTFoMS member-agencies and media observers were holding their regular meeting in Malacañang.

Mariam April Mastura-Linsangan, acting city prosecutor of Kidapawan City, filed the information for the crime of murder before the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Kidapawan City docketed as Criminal Case No. 5281-2019.

Indicted were Junell Jane Andagkit Poten alias Junell Gerozaga; Sotero Jacolbe Jr. alias Jun Jacolbe; and Dante Encarnacion Tabusares alias Bong Encarnacion.

Tabusares and Jacolbe are both local broadcasters.

"The three, acting in conspiracy with treachery and evident premeditation, planned to kill Dizon, who was shot several times and died last July 10," the PTFoMS said in an update.

In the PTFoMS statement, it said Mastura-Linsangan conducted the required preliminary investigation and personally examined Madonna Dizon, the wife of the victim and the principal complainant and her witnesses that there was reasonable ground to believe that the

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DOH confirms polio outbreak, intensifies vaccination campaign

MANILA -- Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said Thursday his department would intensify its vaccination campaign against polio after confirming the re-emergence of the disease in the country. (follow on p.10)

"Polio is re-emerging in the country, 19 years after the Philippines has been declared polio-free by the World Health Organization in 2000. Polio is an infectious disease, which spreads rapidly, causing paralysis and on rare occasions can be fatal," Duque said.

He reported one confirmed case of polio, a three-year-old from Lanao del Sur, and a suspected case of acute flaccid paralysis, which is awaiting confirmation.

He added that the polio virus has been detected in samples taken from sewage in Manila and waterways in Davao as part of the regular environmental surveillance.

The samples were tested by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine and were verified by the Japan National Institute for Infectious Diseases and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"A single confirmed polio case of a vaccine-derived polio virus type or two positive environmental samples that are genetically linked and isolated in two different locations is

considered an epidemic in a polio-free country," Duque said.

In response, he said, the Department of Health (DOH) is in close coordination with the local government units, national agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in implementing a series of synchronized oral polio vaccinations to protect every child under five years old.

"The polio vaccinations in the National Capital Region, Davao City and Lanao del Sur will commence on October 14. We're just preparing all the logistics and vaccines supply," he added.

WHO Country Representative Rabindra Abeyasinghe said the organization stands with the DOH in responding to the polio outbreak.

"We, together with the UNICEF, have fully prepared to help the Philippine government to strengthen the surveillance and swiftly respond to the situation," Abeyasinghe added.

Meanwhile, UNICEF Country Representative Oyun Dendevnorov said that vaccination is the only and best protection against polio among young children.

"As long as one single child remains infected, children across the country, and even beyond, are at risk of contracting polio," Dendevnorov said.

Duque reminded the public that good personal hygiene is another effective way to combat polio apart from immunization.

"Wash your hands regularly, and handwashing for about 20 seconds. Use toilets, drink safe water, and cook your food thoroughly," he added. (PNA)

that we will be relentless in pursuing the perpetrators behind media violence," he added.

"We at the Task Force are enforcing a direct order from the President, that is, to go after the evil-doers behind these criminal acts against media men without fear or favor – as there are no sacred cows in this administration," Egco said.

The PTFoMS also reported that Hilario Cavan Lapi Jr., who was admitted to the Witness Protection Program (WPP), was likewise granted a certificate of admission by the Department of Justice.

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