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*P A L A U I G ,
ZAMBALES --Po-
lice recovered on
Friday five packs of
"shabu" worth PHP80 million from an
abandoned speedboat here.*

Based on the report from Zambales Police Provincial Office headed by Police Colonel Rogelio Ponce Pinones,

a call from Eddie Aurelio, barangay chair-
man of Loc-loc, in Palauig, Zambales,
was received on the speedboat that was
abandoned along the village's shoreline
before noon.

This prompted the local police, along with
the Zambales Maritime Unit and the Philip-
pine Coast Guard, to check the area at 11:30
a.m.

Authorities then found the speedboat,

which has no markings, and later
discovered that two kilograms of
shabu in five packs were left on it.

Policemen are still trying to de-
termine the owner of the speed-
boat and the source of the illegal
drug. (PNA)

Higher IRA for LGUs won't take effect before 2022

MANILA -- Higher internal revenue allotment (IRA) for local government units (LGUs) may not be feasibly effected before 2022.

Under the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Mandanas vs. Ochoa, the higher IRA for LGUs must be implemented.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said it was agreed during the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday night that implementing higher IRA would lead to "unmanageable fiscal deficit."

"It was agreed that the adjustment of the IRA may not be feasibly effected during this Administration," Panelo said in a statement.

"Otherwise, there will be an unmanageable fiscal deficit, while securing loans will be more expensive to the nation as the citizenry will be paying for higher rates," he added.

Panelo said the IRA adjustment cannot be implement-
ed due to various commitments, such as the implemen-
tation of programs designed to combat criminality and
corruption, and activities of the national government to
promote human development and poverty reduction,
among others.

He, meanwhile, said postponing the adjustment of
the IRA is in accordance with the ruling by the High Court
that expanded basis for calculating LGUs' share in the
national taxes will be prospectively effective starting from
the 2022 budget cycle.

Last April, the High Court rejected the government's
motion for reconsideration on the ruling on the IRA for
LGUs.

The ruling stated that entitlement of LGUs to IRAs
included not just internal revenue, but also all other gov-
ernment taxes. (PNA)

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COMELEC TO RE- OPEN VOTER REG- ISTRATION IF BSKE IS POSTPONED

*MANILA -- The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is not dis-
counting the possibility of reopening the voter registration if
next year's Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections
(BSKE) will be reset as proposed by several lawmakers.*

"Yes we'll just reopen if the
BSKE will not push through,"
Comelec chairman Sheriff Abas
said on Thursday.

The voters have only until
the end of September to regis-
ter for the 2020 village and
youth council elections, accord-
ing to the poll body.

Earlier, Senators Imee Mar-
cos and Christopher Lawrence
'Bong' Go proposed to reset the
elections to 2023 while Sena-
tor Franklin Drilon suggested to
hold it in 2021 so that incum-
bent village officials will be able
to complete a three-year term.

Abas said if the elections
will not push through, Comelec
will most likely reopen the reg-
istration of voters.

If there is no postponement,
Abas said the registration will
end as scheduled on Sept. 30
since they have to work on the
clustering of the list of voters.

The ongoing voter registra-
tion started on Aug. 1, 2019 all
over the country.

Meanwhile, the Comelec on
Thursday signed anew a mem-
orandum of agreement with
Robinsons Land Corporation

(RLC) for the establishment of
satellite registration booths in
Robinsons malls nationwide.

The conduct of registration
in all 52 Robinsons malls is to
attract more applicants, partic-
ularly during weekends, where
many people visit malls.

Under the agreement, the
mall chain will provide logistical
assistance to the poll body by
providing them with a space
within the malls, tables, elec-
tricity, and chairs during the mall
registration activities.

The RLC will also help in the
promotion of scheduled mall
registration activities in order to
adequately inform the public of
the event.

Robinson's Operations Direc-
tor Irving Wu said they will coordi-
nate with the Comelec as to the
schedule of registration in their
malls.

"We will just await for the
Comelec to coordinate with us
the schedule of the registration
activities, and then we will
make the proper announce-
ments," he said.

The partnership between the
two entities started in 2016. (PNA)

Drug convict freed due to GCTA surrenders in Pasay

MANILA -- A drug convict who was among those freed
under the Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) law sur-
rendered to authorities in Pasay City, the National Capital
Region Police Office (NCRPO) said Thursday.

NCRPO chief, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, identified the sur-
renderer as Nicanor Naz, who was sentenced to life imprison-
ment and a fine of PHP20,000 for violation of Republic Act 6425 or
the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972, by the Pasay City Regional
Trial Court Branch 116 on June 3, 1993.

Eleazar said that Naz was released from the Davao Prison
and Penal Farm, B. E. Dujali, Davao del Norte last July 11, after
having served 40 years in prison pursuant to Article 70 of the
Revised Penal Code stated in the memorandum of sacked Bureau
of Corrections (BuCor) Director General Nicanor Faeldon.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has deployed tracker
teams to locate convicts who were freed under the law.

This came after President Rodrigo Duterte gave these con-
victs 15 days to surrender to authorities.

PNP chief, Gen. Oscar Albayalde, said that after the 15-day
grace period given by President Rodrigo Duterte, the PNP will
immediately process the released convicts with the Criminal In-
vestigation and Detection Group (CIDG) as the lead unit for this
undertaking.

Albayalde also directed Eleazar to secure the list of names
and addresses of these convicts from the Bureau of Corrections
(BuCor) and to determine the turnover procedure. (PNA)

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