

04 March 2013 – Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario leaves for Kuala Lumpur this afternoon to meet with Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman to continue discussions on how to avert further loss of lives and to appeal to the Malaysian authorities to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with the remaining members of Kiram's group in Lahad Datu.

Secretary del Rosario will also take this opportunity to personally convey the Philippine Government's requests for a full briefing by Malaysian authorities on the situation and for clearance for the Philippine Navy ship AT-296 *Tagbanua* to proceed to Lahad Datu to enable the Philippine medical personnel aboard to provide humanitarian and consular assistance and provide medical care to the wounded and ferry them and the remaining members of the group back to their respective homes and families.

Ever since the Kiram group landed in Lahad Datu three weeks ago, Secretary del Rosario has been in touch with the Malaysian authorities on a daily basis in search for a peaceful resolution to the situation. END