



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Statement on the alleged intervention of Sec. Bong Go in the PN Frigate Acquisition Project

The President has already addressed the issue of the alleged “intervention” of the SAP Christopher “Bong” Go in the PN Frigate Acquisition Project.

The Secretary of National Defense is confirming that no intervention or interference by Sec. Bong Go happened. The document that the SND alluded to have been given to him by Sec. Bong Go was handed to him at the Palace, so he assumed that it came from Sec. Go, the Special Assistant to the President and Chief of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS). It should be noted that the one of the tasks of the PMS includes the official routing and endorsement of documents to government agencies concerned, for appropriate action.

The subject document originated from Hanwha, one of the proponents for the Combat Management System (CMS) who were post-qualified by the Philippine Navy for the Frigate Acquisition Project (FAP). The SND forwarded it to then Flag-Officer-In-Command of the Philippine Navy for appropriate action, who, in turn, gave it to then Commodore Robert Empedrad, the Chairperson of the Frigate Project Management Team at the time. Adm. Empedrad wrote a reply to the document stating the preferred CMS of the Philippine Navy, subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

There was neither hint nor guidance from the Palace or from Sec. Bong Go to influence the implementation of the project. There is a contract for the FAP which was crafted mainly by the Philippine Navy and it will be implemented strictly to the letter.

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