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MCOT NEWS

New SMS launched in deep South for people's tip-offs on insurgency

BANGKOK, Jan 24 (TNA) - The Ministry of Interior has launched a new short message service (SMS) on mobile phone networks in Thailand's deep South for people to provide tip-offs to authorities on insurgents' plans, according to Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal Kongsak Wanthana.

Mobile phone users in the country's three southernmost provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani would begin to provide tip-offs to the authorities through the Dharmrongdharm Centre's special helpline, 1567, free of charges from February 1, ACM Kongsak told journalists here on Monday.

The newly-developed SMS system could be applied to the local communication networks of all major service providers in the region, including AIS, DTAC, HUTCH and ORANGE, he noted.

People could also use the Ministry of Interior's special helpline to lodge their complaints so that their problems could be addressed by authorities concerned, said the interior minister.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya said here on Tuesday that he believed a new independent commission recently set up by the government to provide justice and promote the rights and freedom of local residents in the three southern border provinces, as suggested by the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC), could fulfil its mandate although there are no representatives of civil societies in the panel.

"Members of civil societies can be invited to share their views at any meetings or forums of the panel," he told journalists in response to Monday's comment by former prime minister Anand Panyarachun, who heads the NRC's, on alleged no participation of the civil societies in the new panel, which mostly comprises of state authorites and local officials. (TNA)--E002

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