



## **P N P News Release**

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### **PNP ALL SET FOR ARMM POLLS**

The Philippine National Police is fine-tuning all security preparations for the forthcoming elections in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao on November 26.

PNP Chief, Director General Leandro R Mendoza announced today that the PNP, particularly the PNP Regional Office in the ARMM, is all-set to assume election duties in connection with the November 26 ARMM polls.

The Commission on Elections passed Resolution No. 4594 deputizing the Department of the Interior Local Government, National Police Commission, and the PNP to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful, and credible elections in the ARMM.

Under the Comelec deputation, the PNP is tasked to "provide security to the Election Officers, personnel and representatives of the Comelec, and members of the Board of Election Inspectors."

The Comelec also ordered the PNP to "take steps to protect voters from threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or reprisal."

The PNP is also tasked to undertake measures to prevent barangay volunteers, and militiamen from engaging in partisan political activities.

ARMM Regional Director, Chief Superintendent Acmad Omar reported that all PNP units in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Marawi City have been placed on heightened alert since the start of the election period last September 27.

The PNP will strictly implement the Omnibus Election Code in the ARMM during the 90-day election period particularly the restrictions on the carrying

of firearms, employment of bodyguards and security personnel, and other prohibited acts, Omar said.

Omar said all private security agencies operating in the ARMM are being closely monitored to prevent the from being utilized as private armies.

Activities of Partisan Armed Groups (PAGs) in the region are also being monitored to prevent confrontation among opposing political forces.

As police preparations are underway in the ARMM, Mendoza has alerted the PNP Regional Offices in Central, Northern, and Western Mindanao for possible augmentation and operational support to the ARMM provinces.