



## **P N P News Release**

Authority : PSSUPT LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL PNP  
Public Information Office  
Camp Crame, Quezon City  
Tel: +6327253179 Fax: +6327255115  
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### **GENERALLY PEACEFUL BARANGAY POLLS**

The nationwide 2002 Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections was generally peaceful.

This was the initial assessment made by PNP Chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr. during closing hours of today's nationwide voting for elective Barangay posts.

The entire National Police remains on "full alert" since Saturday.

Except for some isolated cases of violence, the overall situation was generally peaceful, Ebdane said.

The PNP Chief is continuously monitoring the situation nationwide through periodic field reports from the 16 PNP Regional Directors.

At least four incidents of bombing, arson and shooting were reported before the opening of polling precincts today.

At 1:00 AM this morning, a grenade fired from an M79 launcher exploded at the compound of Mayor Datu Esrael Sinsuat in South Upi, Maguindanao. This was followed by another explosion at around 2:20 AM in nearby Barangay Timanan, believed to be from an 81mm mortar shell.

No one was reported injured in the explosions.

In Cordova, Cebu, still unidentified suspects set fire on the Cogon Elementary School at 1:10 AM this morning. No casualties were reported.

Also in Cebu, police arrested Jacinto MENES and Edel REYES after a brief shootout in Bgy Capitan Caludio, Toledo City.

The suspects, both followers of Kagawad Rene Imbralidad, were armed with a cal. 45 pistol and a cal. 357 revolver.

According to PNP Spokesman, Senior Superintendent Leopoldo N Bataoil, the PNP has listed a total of **7,973** barangays as "areas of concern." These areas either have a history of intense political rivalry and violence in previous elections, or are within the areas of operation of dissident, secessionist, and terrorist forces.

As a midnight last night, a total of **56** election-related violent incidents have been recorded nationwide since the start of the election period on March 31, 2002. These include 47 shooting incidents, one (1) stabbing incident, two (2) abductions, two (2) ambushes, and four (4) other violent attacks, Bataoil said.

A total of **38** persons have been killed and **20** others were wounded in these incidents. Among those killed were 13 incumbent elective officials, 13 candidates, and 11 civilians/supporters, and one (1) AFP personnel.

In the implementation of the 60-day gunban from March 31 to July 30, 2002, the PNP has accounted for **504** firearms, **17** explosive devices and **159** bladed weapons.

A total of **521 persons** were arrested for violation of the gunban and possession of explosives and deadly weapons.

The violators include 492 civilians, 11 AFP personnel, six (6) PNP personnel, one (1) BJMP personnel, one (1) BFP personnel, and 10 government officials. A total of **444 cases** have been filed against the violators.