



P N P News Release

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PNP ON THE HEIGHTENED ALERT FOR BARANGAY POLLS

PNP Chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes E Ebdane Jr., has placed the entire 113,000-strong National Police Under heightened alert in preparation for Monday's synchronized Sanguniang Kabataan and Barangay elections.

The heightened alert requires all police personnel to be on round-the-clock readiness to respond to contingencies and threats.

According to Ebdane, PNP Line units from the regional down to coordinate with the local election officers particularly during the conduct of preventive patrol and checkpoint operations against firearms and deadly weapons.

The PNP is enforcing a nationwide gun ban for the duration of 60-day election period.

The PNP has listed a total of 7,973 Barangays in 1,052 cities and municipalities as "areas of concern" and possible trouble spots.

According to PNP Spokesman, Senior Superintendent Leopoldo N Bataoil, these "areas of concern" either have a history of political violence in previous elections, or are within the areas of operation of local dissident, Secessionist or terrorist forces.

As of yesterday (July 10), Bataoil disclosed that the PNP has recorded a total of 41 election-related violent incidents nationwide since the start of the election period on May 31, 2002.

Records culled by the PNP directorate for Operations reported 34 shooting incidents, one stabbing incident, two abductions, two ambushes, and two other violent attacks.

A total of **29** persons have been killed and 13 other were wounded in these incidents.

Among those killed were 13 incumbent elective officials, eight (8) candidates, and seven (7) political supporters, Bataoil said.

The latest casualty in election-related violence was incumbent Barangay Kagawad Ricardo Suelto of Barangay Licheria, Calamba City who was gunned down by still unidentified assailants last Monday.

On the same day in Saranggani, incumbent Barangay Treasurer Elias Abud and his wife Josephine were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in Bgy Tuana, Datu Maitum town.