



PNP News Release

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Date : 05 June 2002

POLICE NAB 2 GUNBAN VIOLATORS

A government firefighter and an Army trooper were the first recorded violators of the 60-day nationwide gunban imposed by the Comelec in connection with the July 15 synchronized Sangguniang Kabataan and Barangay elections.

A nationwide prohibition on carrying of firearms is in effect since May 31, 2002 and will last until July 30, 2002 pursuant to Comelec Resolution No. 4780.

Reports received by the PNP Central Operations Center in Camp Crame disclosed that **Fire** Officer 2 Diosdado BONILLA, assigned with the Ozamis City Fire Station yielded a home-made cal.357 magnum revolver with four rounds of live ammunition when frisked at a police checkpoint in Surigao City.

In Cotabato, police arrested Army Corporal Eleazar TABEJARA for possession of a cal. 45 pistol.

Bonilla was arrested by a police team led by Senior Inspector Ruperto Charcos Jr. who were manning a checkpoint at Km 4, Barangay Luna in Surigao City at 3:00 am of June 1.

Aside from the gun, police also found three small plastic sachets of suspected Shabu and one plastic sachet of dried Marijuana in Bonilla's possession.

Tabejara, on the otherhand, was arrested at Barangay Capayuran, Pigcawayan, Cotabato at 4:10 pm last June 2.

He is presently assigned with the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Battalion stationed in Buldon, Maguindanao.

He failed to show any supporting document to justify his possession of the firearm.

According to PNP Spokesman, Senior Superintendent Leonardo Espina, carrying of firearms outside of residence during the gunban period is a violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

The offense is punishable by one to six years imprisonment without probation, disqualification from holding public office, and deprivation of the right of suffrage, Espina said.