



## **P N P News Release**

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### **RAYMOND AFRICA**

The Philippine National Police has placed its 114,000-strong personnel on heightened alert in the onset of the election period, which began yesterday and will end on June next year.

PNP Spokesman Senior Supt. Joel Goltiao, said the main objective of the alert was to ensure a peaceful and orderly conduct of the campaign and the elections proper, including the strict implementation of the nationwide gun ban.

Heightened alert would mean that at least 70 percent of the police force will be placed on call.

"Police personnel are not allowed to take their leave of absence unless there is valid reason," Goltiao said.

Goltiao said that the National Capital Region Police Office has started to be on heightened alert as early as last week for the implementation of the metro-wide checkpoints.

In this connection, Goltiao said all previously issued permits to carry firearms outside residences are automatically cancelled and an individual would have to request the Commission on Elections should he opt to carry a gun outside of his residence.

Goltiao clarified that vehicles were not considered "extensions" of the homes, and therefore bringing firearms in cars is considered illegal.

"Kapag dinala nila and kanilang baril sa kanilang mga sasakyan ay maaari pa rin silang hulihin kung wala silang exemption form the Comelec," Goltiao added.

He said that only uniformed persons in authority were allowed to carry firearms while on their respective duties.