

At the national level, NAMFREL is governed by a National Council, and at the local level, it is organized into provincial, city and municipal chapters throughout the country. Each chapter is responsible for operations within the cities or municipalities in the conduct of NAMFREL's duties. Starting with the 2004 Philippine elections, NAMFREL has also been present in several countries holding overseas absentee voting.

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as of 011617



National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections

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"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke



"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)

Filipinos from all walks of life have decided to take positive action to preserve democracy in the country by making elections work as the basic means for achieving peaceful change.

NAMFREL is a world pioneer in election monitoring. It is a non-partisan, nationwide organization of individual citizens and civic, religious, professional, business, labor, educational, youth and non-government organizations, voluntarily working for the cause of free, orderly and honest elections. Formally organized in October 1983, its roots can be traced to as early as 1957 with the establishment of the Operations Registration Committee. The Citizens National Electoral Assembly (CNEA) formed in the 1960s and 1970s was also the precursor of NAMFREL. Today, NAMFREL continues the tradition of a citizens' group working for political and electoral reforms.

In 1986, citizen vigilance in the snap Presidential elections showed what Filipinos can do to restore democracy in the country. 500,000 NAMFREL volunteers offered their time and energy, even their lives, to preserve the sanctity of the ballot.

Since 1984, NAMFREL has participated in Philippine national and local elections as an accredited citizens' arm of the Commission on Elections.



NAMFREL is an organization of the people, by the people and for the people.

As a Filipino citizens' group, NAMFREL's commitment is to actively participate in strengthening democratic institutions and processes, particularly the electoral process. It highly encourages the involvement of citizens in this enormous task of guarding democracy. NAMFREL believes that it is only by harnessing the power of an informed and concerned citizenry that free, orderly and clean elections, as well as honesty in government, can be achieved.

Aside from conducting parallel counts during elections, NAMFREL is also involved in anti-corruption and good governance programs, such as medicine and textbook monitoring programs, budget consultations and participation in bids and awards & integrity management committees of various government agencies.

As a non-partisan volunteer organization, NAMFREL is funded neither by the government nor by any political party or partisan institution. It draws upon contributions made by many civic-minded citizens who support NAMFREL's mission.

NAMFREL in the international electoral scene

NAMFREL's involvement in the international electoral scene include invitations by the United Nations and UNDP to monitor elections in Cambodia, as well as receiving several nominations to the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize from notable organizations such as the Carnegie Endowment For International Peace and the International Human Rights Law Group, both based in Washington, D.C.

Internationally, NAMFREL volunteers have worked as trainers, observer team members, election administrators and resource persons in 42 countries so far, namely: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Denmark, Egypt, Guyana, Haiti, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, U.S.A., Uzbekistan, and Zambia. NAMFREL volunteers have been directly involved in the creation of similar election monitoring organizations in some of these countries.

