

Barangay and SK elections

Timeline of Activities

13 and 15 August 2010

*The period for filing applications for registration, transfer of registration, change of name, correction of entries, reactivation of deactivated registration record for 25 October 2010 Barangay and SK Elections already ended

25 September-10 November 2010

*COMELEC Resolution No. 9019, sets the election period to September 25, 2010 until November 10, 2010.

Comelec Resolution

Res. No. 9022 - In the matter of delegating to the Regional Election Directors the authority to approve requests to open ballot boxes and dispose the contents thereof in connection with the October 25, 2010 Barangay and SK elections

Res. No. 9019- Calendar of Activities and Periods of certain prohibited acts in connection with the October 25, 2010 Barangay and SK election

Total gun ban starts on September 25

- The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will implement a total gun ban from September 25 to November 10 for the synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on October 25. Candidates for barangay posts, incumbent officials, private individuals and government officials could apply for security escorts if there are threats to their lives. On September 16, the Comelec will hold a command conference with the police, military, Department of Education and Department of Transportation and Communications to discuss the mechanics for the total gun ban.

Bias IRA for NCR, review of laws needed before October 25

- According to Dr. Romulo Virola, Secretary-General of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) there is an imbalance allocation of Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) for Metro Manila where rich local government units (LGUs) still receive the biggest IRA share despite the fact that they can generate sufficient revenue to meet their needs. The reason for this imbalance is the formula used that provides more allotment for those LGUs with bigger populations. Metro Manila received Php 18,289,043,495 (7%) of the Php 265,802,377,000 IRA of CY 2010. This takes away much-needed resources from poor towns that do not have enough population to merit larger allocations.
- Makati, Quezon City, Manila, and Pasig are consistently the top cities with the highest total tax revenue. The next four are Paranaque, Pasay, Mandaluyong, and Caloocan. Despite the amount of resources that the richest cities in Metro Manila have, most do not allot more than 20 percent of their income to education, culture, and sports/manpower development. Las Piñas and Manila are the only two other cities that gave at least 20% of their priority budgetary allocation to health and education.

Several FGDs organized this month

- The non-profit International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) has been tasked by the Comelec to make an independent assessment on the conduct of the recently concluded May 10, 2010 automated elections in the country. The evaluation is set to start this September. In this regard, IFES is organizing a roundtable discussion to solicit views from a variety of experts and resource persons on electoral process on September 20. The Consortium on Electoral Reform (CER) will also have a summit on electoral reforms that will also review the automated national and local elections on September 23- 25 to outline the reform agenda by convening different groups both from concerned government offices/ agencies and non- governmental organizations. Moreover, LENTE is also having their Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on voter's registration seeking to guide efforts at reforming existing voter's registration-related laws. NAMFREL is invited to share the organizations election experiences and expertise in all of these FGDs.

[Sources: *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *Abs- cbn News*, *Namfrel Data*, *Comelec*, *NSCB data*]