

Barangay and SK elections

Timeline of Activities

25 September-10 November 2010
ELECTION PERIOD
Gun and bodyguards ban.

1- 13 October 2010
Filing of candidates Certificate of Candidacy (COC).

14- 23 October 2010
Candidates campaign period.

18 October 2010
Last day for filing of disqualification cases.

18- 20 October- Inspection and verification of completeness of the Voters' Registration Records and sealing of the Book of Voters for each barangay and SK precinct

20 October- Last day of posting the Computerized Voters' List (CVL)

25 October 2010
Casting of votes from 7 a.m until 3 p.m.. Canvassing follows.

Comelec Resolution

Res. No. 9044- In the matter of amending Comelec Res. 9019 calendar of activities in connection with the Oct 25 election

Res. No. 9043- Rules and regulation governing election campaign, propaganda, contributions and expenditures in connection with Oct 25 election

Res. No. 9042- In the matter of placing some areas in the country under COMELEC control

Res. No. 9040 - Enforcement of the prohibition against appointment or hiring of new employees, creation or filling up of new positions; giving salary increases; transferring/ detailing of civil service employees; and suspension of elective local officials in connection with the Oct. 25 election.

Res.No.9039 - Rules and Regulation governing public works ban and ban on the release, disbursement and expenditures of public funds in connection with the Oct 25 election.

More security in hotspots areas

- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will deploy its forces in areas considered as election hot spots as security officials anticipate intense rivalries for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on October 25. Out of the total of 42,025 barangays where the elections will be held, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has so far listed some 2,300 barangays where poll-related violent incidents would likely proliferate. Most of the soldiers will be dispatched as peacekeepers as part of a major strategy to make up with the limited number of police and military forces in these areas. Such strategy is important in order to maximize the implementation of security measures as both the military and the police try to duplicate their success during the May 10 elections which was considered as an improvement over violence- marred history of Philippine elections.

COMELEC grants palace request on appointments

- President Aquino is still allowed to appoint and reshuffle officials even with the existing appointment ban during the campaign period leading to the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on October 25. Commission on Election (Comelec) Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said five of the seven commissioners approved on September 27 the request of Malacañang for an exemption from the appointment ban. The exemption covers only new appointment and transfer of officials to other departments. Malacañang submitted a list of officials for new appointment and transfer and names beyond the list submitted to the Comelec are no longer covered by the exemption. Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said the exemption from the ban is not unusual since the poll body also granted similar exclusions in the past elections to Malacañang and other government offices. Also exempted from the ban are the appointments of 23 non-career ambassadors and another 23 regional trial court judges. The exemption is granted so as not to paralyze government operations and public service.

NAMFREL invited to observe COMELEC bidding

- The COMELEC through the new Chairman of its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Atty. Ferdinand T. Rafanan, has invited once again NAMFREL to be an official observer for its BAC. NAMFREL was last invited to attend as BAC observers three years ago. This would be part of NAMFREL's election and good governance effort to ensure a transparent and accountable management of COMELEC's procurement requirements. One of the first items up for bidding under the new BACs leadership is for the procurement of supplies related to the October 25 Sangguniang Kabataan and Barangay Elections. The bid submission and opening, was originally scheduled for September 25 but was postponed to September 29 due to concerns of the bidders capability and experience on security papers. Total Approved Budget Contract (ABC) for three lots of ballot, election return, and canvassing security papers amounted to Php 158,051,752.50. For more on NAMFREL's procurement monitoring programs visit <http://www.namfrel.org.ph/>

[Sources: Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star News, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]