

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 Resolutions

Resolution No. 9049- In the matter of amending Comelec Resolution No. 9028, otherwise known as "The Rules and Regulation on bearing, carrying, or transporting of firearms or other deadly weapons and availment of security personnel or bodyguards

Resolution No. 9048- Rules delegating to Comelec field officials the authority to hear and receive evidence in disqualification cases filed in connection with the Oct 25 Brgy and SK elections.

Resolution No. 9046- Preservation of the book of voters and other election documents used relative to the precautionary protection issued in PET case no. 004

Res No. 9045- Instructions to chief of police of cities/ municipalities on the conduct of the preliminary examination on the violation of the ban on firearms, other deadly weapons and security personnel

Res. No. 9043- Rules and regulation governing election campaign, propaganda, contributions and expenditures

Abu Sayyaf plans running in Barangay elections

- The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) has decided to join the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and Barangay elections. The military claims the Islamist group is not motivated by its ideology but will be fielding candidates in the youth and barangay election in Basilan for funding purposes. Commander of Naval Forces Western Mindanao, Brigadier General Eugenio Clemen said the military uncovered the Abu Sayyaf's plan to contest at least two village positions following the fielding of assets to a meeting called for by Abu Sayyaf leader Nurhassan Jamiri in Albarkah town. He said the military was wary that the Abu Sayyaf will utilize terror to ensure the victory of its candidates. Roberto de la Pe, Basilan election supervisor, said they have not received reports of the Abu Sayyaf fielding candidates. He said they were going to meet with the military to discuss plans on how to block the Abu Sayyaf's quest for political power. This move marks a shift in strategy by the ASG to gradually go mainstream however ulterior the motive. Caution should be adopted in dealing with allowing ASG aligned candidates to encourage them to veer away from extremist and violent ways yet conscious of the fact that this move is to follow the successful experience by some insurgent groups in the past to dip its hands in the coffers of local governments to fund their insurgency. (EOA)

Comelec prohibits political parties to support candidates in the Oct. 25 Barangay and SK polls

- Commission on Election (Comelec) Resolution No. 9043 provides that no individual who has filed his/her certificate of candidacy (COC) would be allowed to represent a certain political party or coalition. Political parties, coalitions or organizations, on the other hand, are prohibited from intervening in the filing of COCs of candidates for Barangay and SK posts. A total of 42,025 Barangay captains and SK chairmen as well as an estimated 294,175 Barangay and SK council members will be elected this month. Likewise, political parties and coalitions are not allowed to give aid directly or indirectly, monetary or in kind to any candidate. The resolution also states that the violation by any political party, group, or coalition of political parties shall be a ground for the cancellation of its registration with the Commission. The Comelec also says that any violation would also constitute an election offense, which carries a penalty of one to six years imprisonment as well as being subjected to disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right to vote. However, the poll body clarified that the resolution does not automatically mean that members of any political party or organization shall not be allowed to vote for their chosen candidates. The Comelec may also consider barring any elected officials from supporting any candidate for the upcoming polls to promote further the nonpartisanship of these elections and may lessen the influence and advantage of candidates with close association and/or support from incumbent elected officials. (KZR)

NAMFREL participates in AES Watch Post Election Summit 2010

- On October 5, 2010 the Automated Election System Watch (AES Watch), a coalition of concerned citizens' groups that were involved in monitoring the May 2010 automated elections, convened a Post-Election Summit. NAMFREL participated as partner and co-sponsor along with other convenors such as University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA), Center for People Empowerment in Government (CenPEG), Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM), and Movement for Good Governance (MGG). The program presented reports by AES Watch and CenPEG researchers and fellows with responses from convenors that had done their own election assessment. NAMFREL shared its findings and response to the reports presented. The summit called for an independent and transparent appraisal of the recent elections in light of the lack of access by the public to 21 vital AES documents which Comelec continue to deny access despite the Supreme Court ruling otherwise. The aim of the summit is to begin the process of coming up with concrete proposals for legislation, amendments to election law, and to seek accountability in pursuit of electoral reforms. In the spirit of transparency, the participants reiterated its call to Comelec for the disclosure of all pertinent documents related to the conduct of the May 2010 polls as promulgated by the SC, to include the source code and user manual of the PCOS machines. Among the other documents requested were: public keys used by PCOS computers, network topology diagram and documentation, digital signing protocols, full copy of the contract entered into by the Comelec with Smartmatic and Dominion Voting Systems, and a complete copy of the report of the Technical Evaluation Committee on the May 2010 polls. The documents are necessary to make a complete assessment of the AES, its implementation, and the conduct of the May elections. The information contained in these inaccessible documents is necessary to thoroughly review the AES given the possibility that the same system will be used again in future elections. (EOA)

[Sources: Philippine Daily Inquirer, U.S News Las Vegas, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]