

Barangay and SK elections

Timeline of Activities

25 September-10 November 2010

ELECTION PERIOD

Gun and bodyguards ban.

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. 9069- Rules and regulations governing public works ban and release, disbursement and expenditures of public funds in connection with the November 13 Special elections in the province of Basilan, first legislative district of Bulacan and some areas of Lanao del Sur

Resolution No. 9068- Rules on the Liquor Ban in connection with the November 13 Special elections

Resolution No. 9067-Guidelines on the establishment and operation of Comelec checkpoints in connection with the November 13 Special elections

Resolution No. 9066- In the matter of exercising supervision and control over the Philippine National Police in connection with the Nov. 13, 2010 Special elections

Resolution No. 9065- In the matter of extending the period of implementation of the Comelec resolutions on the (1) prohibition against transfer/detail /suspension of civil service employees and elective officials, and (2) bearing, carrying, or transporting of firearms or other deadly weapons and the availability of the services of security personnel of bodyguards

Source: www.comelec.gov.ph

Barangay and SK elections may be postponed in typhoon- hit areas

- The Omnibus Election Code allows the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to postpone an election in the event of "force majeure" or when there are circumstances beyond its control, like war, riots, earthquakes and floods. The law provides that the postponement cannot be longer than 30 days after the original Election Day. Comelec is monitoring the situation in Northern Luzon and other areas badly hit by typhoon Juan (international codename: Megi). Initial assessments made by Comelec reveal that some barangays might have been hit by landslides and floods as some schools might have been destroyed or used as evacuation centers.

The Comelec may defer the youth and local village elections in these typhoon- affected areas to coincide with the November 13 special election together with Basilan, 1st legislative district in Bulacan and some areas in Lanao del Sur. Special elections were set for the three provinces after the Comelec declared a failure of election in these areas during May 10 elections. Doing so will enable Comelec to save time and resources, reduce the preparations to be done for special elections, and to provide sufficient time for relief and rehabilitation activities in the affected areas. The recommended date is only 19 days after the October 25 election and within the allowable number of days for suspension provided for under the Omnibus Election Code after the original date of polls.

Ballots and ballot boxes not yet ready 9 days before the elections

- Comelec worries about insufficient ballots for around 52 million voters and ballot boxes for the upcoming Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections. The shortage is due to high rate of ballot spoilage being printed by the National Printing Office (NPO) as ballot box stocks are still inadequate. Comelec purchased 6,000 ballot boxes earlier but recent additional orders increased it to 13,000. Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento is complaining and disappointed with the slow performance of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) headed by Comelec Law Department Director Ferdinand Rafanan. The Comelec en banc will discuss the issue of whether the Comelec or the NPO will be liable for all the spoiled ballots. Sarmiento also wants to investigate the delays. Rafanan agreed to do the investigation, however, raised the point that the BAC only received the instructions, specifications and quantity of ballot paper only on September 20 or 34 days before Election Day. He defended that the BAC is speedy in its process despite the time limitation imposed on them.

Blame shifting within the Comelec's department might not be helpful to meet all requirements and deadlines. The Comelec should concentrate first on purchasing and delivering all the materials needed and ensure that it arrives in their respective areas on time. If the investigation and its consequent actions hamper preparations, it should be done after the election to pave the way for punitive action to those found liable.

Good barangay leaders

- The Local Government Code sets some of the duties and responsibilities, as well as attributes of a barangay leader: a caring leader with the general welfare of the barangay as priority; a peacemaker who maintains public order; a crisis manager who can lead in emergency situations; a finance manager who handles funds and uses them wisely; an environmentalist who can control pollution and protect the environment; a supervisor who can coordinate the activities of the barangay. Public servants are chosen by the people with hopes that their lives will change for the better. The attributes mentioned should help us make informed choices.



[Sources: Philippine Daily Inquirer, QTV, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]