

Barangay and SK elections

Timeline of Activities

26- 27 October 2010

Reset elections on some villages

25 October 2010

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

Comelec Resolutions

Resolution No. 9083- In the matter of requesting the honorable secretary of the DILG to authorize local/executives officials where Barangay and SK elections were postponed to declare holiday in such barangays in connection with the barangay and sk polls.

Resolution No. 9078- Guidelines in case the official ballots, accountable election forms, and other election paraphernalia do not arrive on time for the opening of polls in connection with the October 25 elections.

Resolution No. 9077- In the matter of (1) suspending the proclamation of any winning candidate who is included in the list of multiple termers submitted by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) or who has a pending disqualification case based on Section 43 (B) of Republic Act No. 7160; and (2) promulgating rules and regulations on initiating petitions for disqualification, complaint for election offenses, and criminal charges against barangay officials who were elected and have served for three or more consecutive terms in office and filed their Certificates of Candidacy in the same positions in connection with the same positions in connection with the October 25, 2010

Resolution No. 9074- Enforcement of the prohibition against appointment or hiring of new employees; creation or filling up new positions; giving salary increases to any government official or employee in connection with the November 13, 2010 special elections in the province of Basilan, First Legislative, District of Bulacan and some areas in Lanao del Sur

Source: www.comelec.gov.ph

Comelec created a fact- finding committee

- After the postponement of the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections in 2,463 or 5.86 percent out of 42, 025 barangays in the country on October 25, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) created a fact- finding committee headed by Commissioner Armando Velasco to determine the cause and who should be liable of the delays in delivering the election paraphernalia. The committee will also submit recommendations necessary to avoid these problems in future elections. The other members of the committee are Betty Pizaña of the Electoral Contests Adjudication Division director, clerk of court Josefina de la Cruz, Comelec Cebu assistant regional director Romeo Fortes, Zambales provincial election supervisor Lydia Pangilinan, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez and a representative of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting. The committee will also investigate reports about the alleged deliberate delay of delivery of election paraphernalia committed by some Comelec personnel for their personal gain. Forwarding companies also will be investigated if there were any failures on their part to deliver the materials. The committee had been given 15 days to finish the investigation.

Although forming the Barangay and SK fact-finding committee is laudable, the Comelec should also open itself to audit and probe from independent groups and a congressional committee to settle all the allegations from various sectors as well as unresolved problems in past polls. On the other hand, the fact- finding committee should augment its task by investigating and submitting possible reforms also of aged and repeated problems during elections. It is indeed unfortunate for voters and candidates suffering from perennial problems like violence, inaccurate voters list, disorderly conduct etc., because the constitutionally mandated electoral management agency has not adequately addressed these same old problems for 28 electoral exercises since 1984.

DILG: Comelec should not have allowed multiple termers to file COCs

- The Comelec said that they will file disqualification cases against candidates who exceeded and fully served the three consecutive term limit for Barangay officials provided by Section 2 Resolution No. 9164. They will also suspend the proclamation of these candidates for six months. These candidates would be criminally charged with perjury by running in this year's Barangay and SK polls. The election offense carries a penalty of one to six years of imprisonment as well as removal of the right of suffrage and to be elected. However, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jesse Robredo stressed that the resolution made by the Comelec deeming to disqualify multiple termers is not the best solution. He emphasized that these candidates should not have been allowed to file their Certificates of Candidacies (COCs). He further said that he sent a letter to Comelec Chairman Jose Melo with a list of names of the 4,433 barangay captains who should already be disqualified. The letter was sent on October 1, a week before the start of filing the COCs. He clarified that it was not the responsibility of the DILG to go after the multiple termers.

The Comelec's delayed action towards multiple termers disenfranchised large number of votes in 4, 433 barangays. It may also lead to a questionable mandate for the second highest candidate since votes for the multiple termers candidates were considered as stray votes. It does not necessarily mean that the second highest candidate is the real and actual winning candidate in a scenario where multiple termers have not been allowed to run in the first place because voters who voted the multiple termers candidates will vote other candidates. This defeats the purpose of proclaiming the duly elected candidates who won the elections. The Comelec should have a tracking system to record the terms being served by every elected official from the local positions to the national. The responsibility to identify multiple termers should have been the Comelec's since they are the election body that accepts COCs and registers candidates.

NAMFREL's participation in the grassroots' polls

- Though NAMFREL did not seek accreditation for the Barangay and SK Elections, its people recognize the need to get involved in helping voters come up with more informed choices due to the potential impact of the barangay and its officials in Filipinos' everyday lives. Prior to the Election Day, NAMFREL distributed voters' education leaflets to its provincial chapters, partners, candidates and voters. On the Election Day, NAMFREL volunteers observed/are observing the elections in their respective barangays before, during and after elections. They send photos, videos and reports about irregularities and election laws violations encountered to the NAMFREL secretariat. Aside from these, NAMFREL opened its lines for any reports and queries coming from private individuals. NAMFREL was also invited by the media to share its knowledge regarding the Barangay and SK governance and elections. NAMFREL will be issuing its assessment and recommendation after the postponed elections.

[Sources: Abs cbn news, GMA News, Philippine Daily Inquirer, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]