

### **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. 9082-** In the matter of the recipient of the fourth copy of the election return (ER) for the barangay elections in the October 25 elections.

**Resolution No. 9081-** 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. 9080-** In the matter of designating election officers as duly authorized officials of the commission to approve requests to open ballot boxes for the sole purpose of retrieving copies of election returns which will be needed in the canvass.

**Resolution No. 9079-** Guidelines for the treasurers and Board of Election Tellers (BET) on official ballots bearing the same serial number 1 connection with the October 25 elections

**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

Source: [www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)

### **House committee on suffrage will conduct an inquiry in barangay and SK polls**

- On November 9, the House of Representative (HoR) Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reform will conduct an inquiry regarding the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) election deferment and delays in some barangays. The Committee intends to tackle the following issues: delays in the opening of the polls; postponement of the polls in some barangays; the supposed outdated equipment of the National Printing Office (NPO); the accusations that Comelec personnel attempted to sabotage the delivery of the election paraphernalia, and the "multiple termers" or barangay officials who have served for three terms but still run for the same post. Among those requested to attend the hearing are: the Comelec commissioners; Comelec legal department head Ferdinand Rafanan; Comelec Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), and National Printing Office (NPO) officials. The Committee will also seek an explanation on the failure to disqualify the multiple term candidates before the filing of Certificate of Candidacy (CoC) started. The Committee will also take the opportunity to clarify themselves on the issue of the Congress being indecisive on the hearing of bill postponing the Barangay and SK polls.

In mid- July, the Comelec claimed that the poll body has already made the necessary preparations for the conduct of the Barangay and SK elections on October 25 ([philstar.com- 071410](http://philstar.com-071410)). When the deferments of the elections were being tackled in mid-August, the Comelec Chairman assured the public of the Comelec's readiness to conduct manual elections on October 25 ([sunstar.com.ph news- 081910](http://sunstar.com.ph news-081910)). Now that the polls suffered from delays, glitches, and in some areas, chaos, finger- pointing and buck-passing abounds despite earlier boast of readiness. In the midst of this blame- seeking, the Comelec should be more circumspect, ponder on the conduct of the recent polls, and take this opportunity for improvements and reforms in the election management agency.

### **DepEd wants poll duty for teachers as optional**

- The Department of Education (DepEd) supports the proposal of the Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) that the election duties of public school teachers should not be compulsory. The TDC has been lobbying with Congress for the amendment of the provision in Omnibus Election Code which mandates the teachers to work during elections. DepEd has already written and made its presentation with the Comelec on their request to make the involvement of teachers in elections be optional. In recent polls, there were many complaints from teachers who served as Board of Election Tellers (BETs) and other volunteers about the burden of delays of the delivery of election paraphernalia and discrepancies in voters' lists. Worse, teachers are also being harassed or threatened by local candidates and supporters. Apart from the compensation and workload issues being raised by teachers every election time, they are calling for the government to ensure their safety and security by not compelling them to man the polls.

The police and the military have been serving as members of the Board of Election Tellers/ Inspectors in hotspot areas like in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and man the conduct of polls. The Comelec and the legislators might want to consider replacing teachers as compulsory BETs on Election Day with PNP and AFP personnel. This move may change future elections since teachers are most vulnerable to serve during elections because of intimidation and harassment

### **Namfrel's assessment on the Comelec Bids and Awards Committee**

- Namfrel being known also in its effort for good governance through bid monitoring has been invited by the Comelec to observe its bidding processes. The Comelec has recently expressed that they may consider having a reorganization of its Bids and Award Committee (BAC) because of the latter's slow performance in the procurement of supplies. However, the Comelec should take into consideration that the current Comelec BAC was formed only on the third week of September, less than a month before the October 25 polls. There was no training granted regarding the Government Procurement Policy Board Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) as requested by BAC Chairman Atty. Ferdinand Rafanan, and the specifications of materials to be procured were only given on September 20 by the technical working group (TWG). The inadequacy of the TWG in performing their duties should not supposedly affect the BAC's activities; however recent polls show glitches (e.g. insufficient number of ballot boxes and miscalculation of ballot paper reams) because of the TWG and BAC insufficient performance. On the BAC side, the main problem is the slowness and delays of its bidding activities. Another issue was the bidding process' very prolonged introduction ceremonies averaging for almost an hour while whole bidding process in other agencies have an average of one to two hours only. It is highly recommended that the Commission and its BAC should have effective time lines to meet the deadlines to remedy any problems encountered in the process.

[Sources: GMA News, Philippine Star, Sun Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]