

### **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)

### **TDC discussed teachers' right with the Comelec**

- The Teachers Dignity Coalition (TDC) met for a close door dialogue with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc for the immediate release of payments for teachers who served in the recently concluded Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections. TDC complained that 75 percent of the teachers who served on October 25 elections have not received their honoraria. Out of 80 provinces and NCR, only 21 provinces have been paid. Each teacher was supposed to receive Php 2000 and an additional Php 500 if they were involved in the SK elections. This prompted the Comelec to apologize for the delays and assured the teachers that the bulk of the budget for the teachers' honoraria has been released on October 26. They also said that there were also instances that the Election Officers failed to release the honoraria on time.

As Comelec taps the services of teachers for poll duties, it is incumbent on them to remunerate and improve their disbursement process. The Comelec may coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd) in releasing the budget for teachers. The DepEd may include the honorarium in the teachers' next payroll after Election Day. This will ensure that the serving teachers would receive the benefits after completing their election duties.

### **Comelec to resume printing of 34.2 million voter's IDs**

- The Comelec will resume printing 34.2 million voter's identification cards after they have been "cleansed" through its Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) program. The Comelec said 35 million voters' records with biometrics have undergone the AFIS processes. The Comelec added that the design for the voters' ID has been finalized while the ID forms and printers are already available. In 2009, the agency stopped distributing voter's IDs to concentrate on the preparations for the May 10, 2010 automated polls. It also awarded the Php 1.5 million contract to supply the AFIS machines to Unison Computer System Inc., Lamco Paper Products Co. Inc. and NEC Philippines Inc. The Comelec is hopeful that through the AFIS program, its books of voters will be free from double and multiple registrants in time for the 2013 polls.

Introducing biometrics in registration and adopting the AFIS may render it use less to cleanse the voters lists, prevent multiple voting and identity theft if these measures would not be integrated properly into the voting system. The biometrics feature should be a boon for proper voter identification through a robust database with fingerprint and picture matching capability. In future automated elections, the Comelec must insist on this biometric identification feature to be used and incorporated as part of the voting machines specifications. To fully realize the full benefits of an AFIS, there is a need to mandate that all voters must be registered using the biometric capturing technology (fingerprint, face recognition, etc.) to be considered prior to inclusion in the certified voters list.

### **NAMFREL statement on the 2010 Barangay and SK election**

- NAMFREL commends the key players of the recently concluded Barangay and SK elections: the teachers by dedicating themselves as election administrators; the AFP and the military in their contributions to keep the election process peaceful; candidates and watchers; the voters' active participation and NAMFREL volunteers and ordinary citizens who monitored the election even without seeking accreditation. Though NAMFREL recognizes the efforts of the Comelec to make the process transparent and inclusive, the delay in voting of more than 2000 barangays all over the country is simply inexcusable. NAMFREL supports the calls for the immediate investigation of the Comelec-led fact finding committee to determine the cause and liability of this unnecessary delay, and encourages the meting out of punishment for those responsible. NAMFREL volunteers also observed the lack of management inside the voting centers, absence of voters' lists in many areas prior to Election Day, unabated campaigning even on Election Day and inherent problems in the appreciation of ballots in a manual system. NAMFREL would like to express its dismay over the incidences of election related violence. NAMFREL recommends a stronger implementation and expansion of the gun ban, the cleansing of the gun registry, and the ban's implementation even beyond election seasons. NAMFREL will continue to monitor the conduct of special elections, as well as the ongoing investigation by the Comelec fact-finding committee on the delays. To read and download the whole statement of NAMFREL, visit <http://scr.bi/cqkuRa>

[Sources: Abs-cbn news, Philippine Star, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]