



NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL)

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PRESS STATEMENT

NAMFREL: We Are Ready

The **National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections** or NAMFREL has set-up its **National Operations Center** for the election week at the 3rd Floor of the PICPA Building along Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Through an Ecumenical Service held on Sunday, May 12, 2013, the Headquarters' operations officially kicked-off.

The National Operations Center comes fully prepared with internet technology for efficient monitoring and reporting systems, hotline numbers to enable citizen engagement, and a steady stream of dedicated volunteers.

NAMFREL has been acclaimed all over the world for its strong monitoring and vigilance procedures that capitalized on Quick-Count Operations. Now, with the electronic voting mechanism, NAMFREL responds to the changing times and landscape of Philippine Electoral Process through scaled-up operations -- NAMFREL has redefined its approach as an election monitoring organization.

For the May 2013 Elections, NAMFREL pursues a holistic approach as vanguards of honest and fair elections, embarking on six (6) projects, namely Voters' Education, Voters' List Monitoring, Mobile Pollwatching, Logistics and Deployment Monitoring, Random Manual Audit Monitoring, and Electoral Finance Monitoring.

These projects were presented and cleared with COMELEC, which accredited NAMFREL as one of its citizen's arms. The approach for each of the six (6) projects is not only holistic but also strategic considering emergent issues brought by the new technologically-powered election system. The methodologies used in each monitoring project actually conform to international standards. NAMFREL has been releasing Progress Reports on the findings for each of the six projects.

NAMFREL has in fact already written letters to COMELEC expressing its concerns on the reliability of PCOS Machines, the results of the Final Testing and Sealing for the areas it has observed, problems related to the Voters List, and on observed massive vote buying.

Also, NAMFREL will actively receive, consolidate, and release Incident Reports from citizens. A Hotline dedicated for this purpose may be reached at (02)9420918 or via SMS at +639984582009. This will be on-line starting 6:00 AM of May 13 until 6:00 AM of May 15.

NAMFREL Chair Corazon Dela Paz – Bernardo has called on its strong force of volunteers to “make a difference, perform your task with courage, honor and joy, because this is who you are as Filipinos”.

Operating on a national scale, NAMFREL has Chapters from Batanes to Tawi – Tawi, NAMFREL's chair confidently says **“we are ready.”**