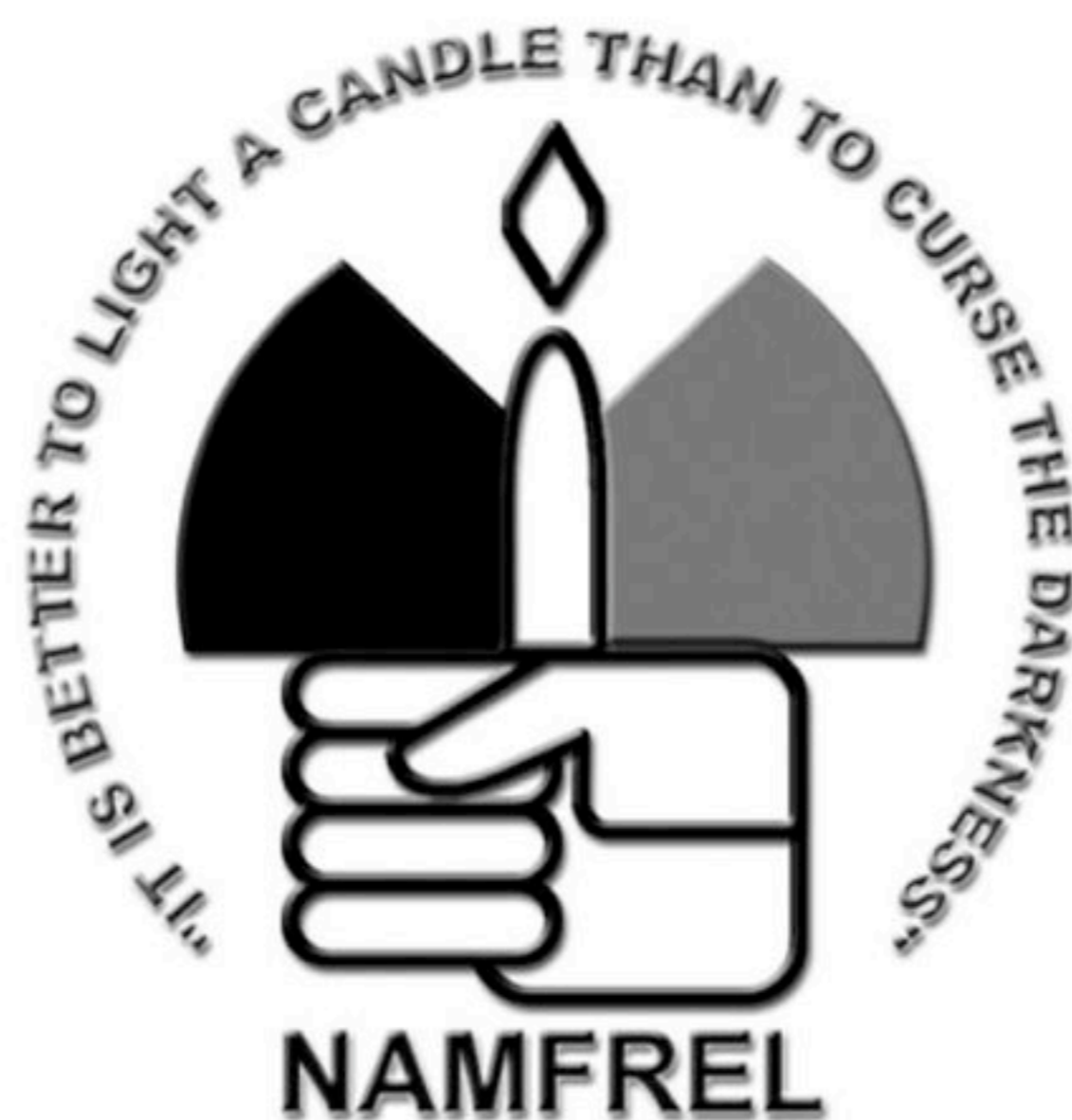


**“All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing.”**



## **Ensuring Fair Elections on May 10**

The National Citizens Movement for Free Elections believes that national elections must be held on May 10, 2010 under an automated election system that contains the proper safeguards and is backed up by sufficient manual systems which can be used where there are instances of a breakdown or failure of the automated system. When we go to the polls on May 10th to elect our new leaders who will assume office on July 1 to lead our Nation forward, we expect nothing less than clean, honest, fair, and credible elections. Our future depends on it.

The public's faith and trust in the Automated Election System have been severely shaken due to repeated failures of the PCOS machines when tested earlier this week. We believe the COMELEC should immediately take steps to rebuild the public's confidence in our electoral process. We, therefore, strongly recommend that :

1. The COMELEC should **prepare forms and processes which are easily accessible in all parts of the country for a manual counting of ballots and canvassing of votes** in case any or all parts of the Automated Election System and the PCOS machines fail.
2. There must be a **full end-to-end test** of all PCOS machines and compact flash (CF) cards (two per machine), including the canvassing software for municipal/city boards of canvassers, provincial boards of canvassers, and national boards of canvassers **before** election day to make certain all parts of the system are working correctly.

**Where the PCOS machines and/or canvassing software fail the test, then there must be full manual counting of ballots in those areas.**

3. In areas where the PCOS machines will be used, we support the call of IT professionals and business groups for a **parallel manual count of three positions (President, Vice President, Mayor) of all ballots to check that the results printed on the Election Returns match the votes on the ballots before the ER is transmitted.** Both the manual and automated counts should be made available immediately to the public for transparency purposes.
4. We recommend that the Random Manual Audit of PCOS machines be done **immediately after the counting finishes and before proclamation of candidates.** We also recommend that the Random Manual Audit **cover 5% of all PCOS machines** per Congressional district instead of just five machines per district as planned by the COMELEC. The audit process should include a review of the hash codes of the PCOS machines for comparison with source codes stored in Bangko Sentral.

The future of the country is at stake. It is incumbent upon the COMELEC to take the necessary steps to ensure clean, honest, fair, and credible elections.

As an organization dedicated to transparency in elections, NAMFREL Volunteers will continue to remain vigilant in these elections and be of service to the people.

For and in behalf of the NAMFREL National Council,

  
**JOSE L. CUISIA**  
National Chairman

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**“It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.”**