# COMELEC ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Commission En Banc
**COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS**
Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros
Manila

    ATTN:  Hon. Sixto S. Brillantes, Jr.
          Chairman

Dear Chairman Brillantes:

Greetings.

Respectfully submitted is the COMELEC Advisory Council Resolution No. 2012-001 recommending the use of Optical Mark Reader technology for the 2013 National and Local Elections.

Rest assured of our continued support to your undertakings.


Very truly yours,

**LOUIS NAPOLEON C. CASAMBRE**
Chairman, COMELEC Advisory Council
DOST-Information and Communications Technology Office

# COMELEC ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Resolution No. 2012-001

### COMELEC Advisory Council Recommendations on the
### 2013 National and Local Elections

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9369, signed into law on the 23$^{rd}$ of January 2007 authorizes the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to "use an automated election system or systems in the same election in different provinces, whether paper-based or a direct recording electronic election system as it may deem appropriate and practical for the process of voting, counting of votes and canvassing/consolidation and transmittal of results of electoral exercises," provided that, for the 2010 General Elections and succeeding national or local elections the "AES shall be implemented nationwide."

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of RA 9369 provides for the creation of an Advisory Council that shall "recommend the most appropriate, secure, applicable and cost-effective technology to be applied in the AES, in whole or in part, at that specific form in time."

**WHEREAS**, Section 12 of RA 9369 further provides that "... the system procured must have demonstrated capability and been successfully used in a prior electoral exercise here or abroad."

**WHEREFORE**, the Advisory Council, properly convened in a series of meetings, discussions and deliberations, resolves as it hereby resolved to recommend:

"The use of the Optical Mark Reader (OMR) technology for the 2013 National and Local Elections for the following reasons:

1.  Use of OMR machines will be easier for the BEIs to use;
2.  Makes voters education easier;
3.  Use of paper-based ballots assures higher auditability;
4.  Proven technology;
5.  Public acceptance of the technology;

subject to the following recommended features:

1.  Standard and verifiable digital signatures for the machines and personnel;
2.  Accurate, reliable, and preferably universal time stamps;
3.  Appropriately secured machine access facilities (e.g., ports, interfaces);
4.  Availability of on-screen voter verification of his/her vote;
5.  Scanner should store the raw scanned data and provide ballot authentication feature;
6.  Machine printouts should be preserved and have a life span of six (6) years;
7.  Printouts should have serial numbers, time stamps and unique machine identifiable features, such as MAC address;

8. Technology process should be render-able to voters' education materials;
9. Source code and circuit schematics should be open for review;
10. Audit logs should be available;
11. Forensics of the hardware as part of the process of qualifying the technology provider;
12. For any purchase, consideration be given by COMELEC to:
    a. cost of storage
    b. facility for storage
    c. reliability of hardware over time
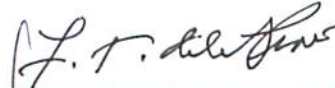    d. cost of money."

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012.


**LOUIS NAPOLEON C. CASAMBRE**
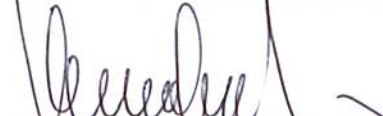DOST - Information and Communications Technology Office


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