



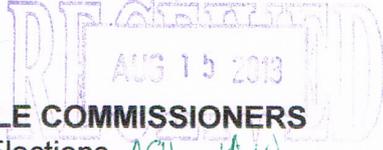
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August 12, 2013

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF COMM. E.R. YUSOP
ADMINISTRATIVE



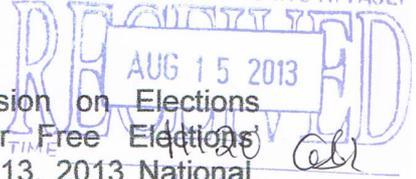
THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

Commission on Elections
Intramuros, Manila

Attention: **HON. SIXTO S. BRILLANTES, Jr.**
Chairman



COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF COMM. LUCENITO N. TAGLI



Dear Sirs,

In compliance with one of the requirements of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in granting the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) petition for accreditation as citizens' arm for the May 13, 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections, we hereby submit to the Commission NAMFREL's full report on the conduct of its projects and activities in connection with the said Elections.

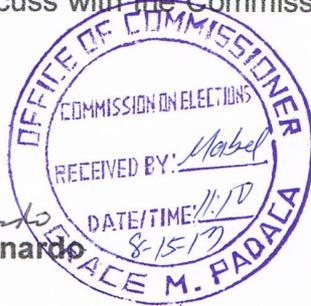
The report presents observations and findings of our volunteers all over the country, including those made during the pre-election and post-election periods.

As in past elections, and as is customary for worldwide election monitoring organizations accredited to observe elections, NAMFREL also presents recommendations on improving further the different aspects of the elections, based on our observations and findings. Included also herein are our observations specific to the conduct of the Random Manual Audit in selected polling stations, and other poll watching observations, some of which were already mentioned in NAMFREL reports earlier submitted to the COMELEC.

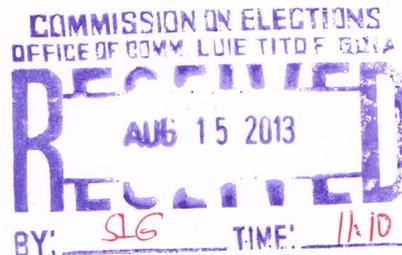
As one of your accredited citizens' arms, we hope that NAMFREL has been able to contribute to the improved conduct of the 2013 National, Local and ARMM Elections. NAMFREL is willing to discuss with the Commission the findings and recommendations contained in this report.

Very truly yours,

Corazon S. de la Paz-Bernardo
Corazon S. de la Paz-Bernardo
National Chairperson



Arce COMELEC-Comm. LIM
15 AUG 2013 11:11 AM



Copy furnished: The Comelec Commissioners





**NAMFREL Report
on the 2013
National, Local, and
ARMM Elections**

I. Executive Summary

The National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) received its accreditation as a citizens' arm of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for the 2013 Elections on January 2, 2013. This report is a culmination of its engagement in connection with the May 2013 elections.

To pursue its role, Namfrel implemented seven projects: 1) support and augment Comelec's voter information and education programs, 2) review and validate the computerized voters' list (CVL), 3) track the delivery of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines and other key accountable election paraphernalia, 4) monitor the compliance of rules on electoral finance, 5) pre-election and election day mobile poll watching, 6) random manual audit monitoring and 7) systems support to the six core projects.

Nanfrel mobilized its network of volunteers in 94 provincial and city chapters to carry out the seven projects. This was also supported by its partners like the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines – National Secretariat for Social Action Justice & Peace (CBCP-NASSA), Philippine Institute for Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), Junior Chamber of Commerce & Industry-Manila (JCI-Manila), Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE), One Vote, Task Force-Honest Orderly & Peaceful Elections (TF-HOPE), Pugad Lawin, C-Care, Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Governance (IMERGG), C-Cimpel, Financial Executives of the Philippines (FINEX), the Social Security System (SSS), the Civil Service Commission (CSC), academic institutions and its usual supporters from the business community. The CSC issued a resolution authorizing government employees to render 100 hours of volunteer service to Namfrel on official time.

There were many commendable initiatives of the Comelec in the conduct of the May 2013 Elections. They include the serious effort to implement the provisions of the law on campaign finance, strict implementation of the law on allowable campaign materials, rationalized screening and registration of parties for accreditation in the party list system, cleansing of the voters list in the ARMM,

relatively more peaceful elections, better management of the elections at the precinct level by the Board of Election Inspectors on election day, conscious effort to enfranchise detainees, and the 75.72 % voters' turnout.

However, the elections were still attended by perennial problems such as erroneous voters' list in certain provinces, widespread vote buying, administrative lapses in the deployment of critical election paraphernalia, low turnout of overseas absentee voters, pending issues on the PCOS machines (the source code review, security features, and transmission capability), and the perception, rightly or wrongly, of manipulation of election results. Namfrel submitted periodic pre-election and election day reports to the Comelec on some of the above issues.

Additionally, new concerns emerged on the manner of proclamation of winning senatorial candidates (using a new instrument called the Group Canvass Report instead of the official Certificates of Canvass), the management of the Comelec database [the 39.9 million voter turnout per the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC) official count vis-à-vis the 31.6 million voter turnout as posted in the Comelec website], and not fully maximizing the contribution of the Comelec Advisory Council (CAC).

This report presents findings and recommendations along the 7 projects cited above, the more salient of which are for Comelec:

1. to seriously consider adopting a different AES technology in 2016 elections;
2. to propose to the legislative bodies the simplification and streamlining of election laws and the adoption of much needed electoral reforms;
3. to engage in continuing voters' education even during off election years;
4. to consider any of these measures to cleanse the voters' list: institute a civil registry-based voters' list, initiate a general registration or conduct a voters' registration audit;
5. to improve election management specifically on improved deployment of election equipment and paraphernalia, conduct of an end to end mock elections, using a clustered precinct-based

- voters' list, responsive facilities and convenient alternative voting procedures for persons with disabilities, improving turnout of overseas absentee voters, etc.;
6. to develop clearer and simpler procedures in the conduct of the random manual audit;
 7. to digitize the report requirements of campaign expenses by candidates and political parties and submission of these reports before and after the campaign period; and
 8. to exert more effort at promoting transparency to generate goodwill from the public and even from its harshest critics.

Namfrel believes that based on the experiences and reports of its nationwide volunteers before, during and after the elections, the May 2013 elections were relatively free, fair and orderly. It reserves judgment however on the propriety of the process that attended the proclamation of the winning senatorial candidates and the overhang that continues to hound the integrity of the PCOS machines.