



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EN BANC
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
HELD ON APRIL 23, 2018

Acting Chairman Al A. Parreño
Commissioner Luie Tito F. Guia
Commissioner Ma. Rowena Amelia V. Guanzon
Commissioner Sheriff M. Abas

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18-0329

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PPCRV AND NAMFREL ACCREDITATION FOR
PURPOSES OF THE 2018 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN
ELECTIONS (BSKE)**

This pertains to the Memorandum dated April 20, 2018 of Commissioner Luie Tito F. Guia relative to the PPCRV and NAMFREL accreditation for purposes of the 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE).

The Memorandum of Commissioner Guia reads:

"This refers to the (1) pending Petition of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the (2) Letter dated 6 April 2018 of the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) both seeking accreditation as citizen's arms of the Commission for the 14 May 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections ('BSKE')."

On the one hand, the PPCRV seeks accreditation through the filing of a petition under Rule 33 of the COMELEC Rules of Procedure presumably on the assumption that its accreditation has already lapsed pursuant to Section 11 of the Rules to wit:

Sec. 11 Expiration of Accreditation. – The accreditation shall automatically lapse at the end of the election period of the political exercise for which the petitioner was accredited as citizen's arm.

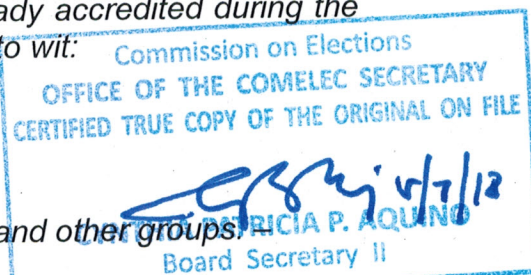
On the other hand, the NAMFREL, seeks accreditation by filing a letter-manifestation of its intent to discharge the duties of an accredited citizens' arm of the Commission pursuant to Section 18, Article III of Resolution No. 10211.

In this regard, the undersigned wishes to direct the attention of the Commission En Banc on its policy reflected under Resolution No. 10211 relating to the accreditation of citizens' arms already accredited during the 9 May 2016 National and Local Elections ('NLE'), to wit:

**ARTICLE III
WATCHERS**

Sec. 18. Official watchers of candidates and other groups

Citizen's arms already accredited during the May 9, 2016 National and Local elections; do not need to apply for accreditation for purposes of October 23, 2017 Barangay and SK



elections. **However, they should file a manifestation of intent to discharge the duties of an accredited citizens' arm to the Commission En Banc not later than October 9, 2017.**
(emphasis supplied)

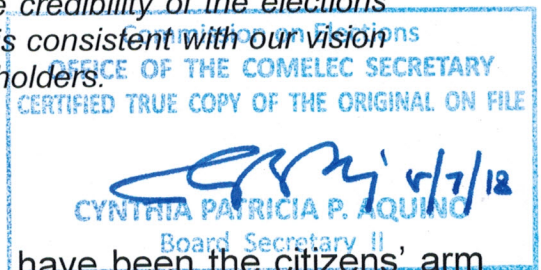
However, even before the 9 October 2017 deadline lapsed, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 10952 postponing the 23 October 2017 BSKE on 2 October 2017. This was made immediately effective upon its publication on 4 October 2017.

On 15 January 2018, the Commission promulgated Resolution No. 10247 adopting pertinent previous resolutions relating to the 23 October 2017 BSKE. Among the resolutions adopted is Resolution No. 10211. Unfortunately, it appears that the 9 October 2017 deadline for previously accredited citizens' arms to submit their manifestation of intent was not adjusted.

Considering that both PPCRV and NAMFREL were previously accredited in the 2018 NLE, the undersigned recommends that the petition and letter of PPCRV and NAMFREL respectively be treated as their manifestation of intent to discharge the duties of an accredited citizens arm of the Commission pursuant to Section 18, Article III of Resolution No. 10211, as adopted for the 14 May 2018 BSKE. It should be understood that their continuous accreditation should follow the same duties and responsibilities as provided under their accreditation during the 2016 NLE, in so far as it is applicable to the 14 May 2018 BSKE. The 9 October 2017 deadline imposed under Resolution No. 10211 be deemed extended to accommodate the two manifestations.

Lastly, PPCRV and NAMFREL, have long been citizens' arm of the Commission and have in fact contributed to the credibility of the elections we run. Having been them as our citizens' arm is consistent with our vision to forge stronger partnership with election stakeholders.

For your consideration."



Considering that PPCRV and NAMFREL have been the citizens' arm of this Commission in past elections, and have contributed to the conduct of honest, orderly, peaceful elections as such citizens' arm, the Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to **adopt** the foregoing recommendation of Commissioner Luie Tito F. Guia that the petition and letter of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), respectively, be treated as their Manifestation of Intent to discharge the duties of an accredited citizens' arm of the Commission pursuant to Section 18, Article III of Resolution No. 10211, as adopted for the May 14, 2018 BSKE. Their continuous accreditation shall follow the same duties and responsibilities as provided under their accreditation during the 2016 National and Local Elections (NLE), insofar as it is applicable to the May 14,

2018 BSKE. Hence, the October 9, 2017 deadline imposed under Resolution No. 10211 is deemed extended to accommodate the two Manifestations.

Let the Head, PMO 2018 BSKE and the Office of the Clerk of the Commission implement this Resolution.

SO ORDERED.


AL A. PARREÑO
Acting Chairman


LUIE TITO F. GUIA
Commissioner


MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner


SHERIFF M. ABAS
Commissioner

Cc: Acting Chairman
All Commissioners
Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Deputy Executive Director for Administration
Head, PMO 2018 BSKE
Office of the Clerk of the Commission
Law Department

