



NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL)

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July 31, 2023

Dear members of the media,

May we furnish you a copy of the attached document entitled "Call to Action on the 2025 Automated Election System," which urges the COMELEC to adopt for the 2025 AES standards of transparency, cost-effectiveness, accessibility and inclusivity, reliability, security, safety, and fairness, and for Congress and the Government Procurement Policy Board to effect the necessary reforms in line with cost-effectiveness.

In April and May 2023, NAMFREL conducted several consultations among election stakeholders in relation to the automated election system (AES), particularly the form of AES that would be adopted for the 2025 Mid-Term Elections. These consultations were the following:

1. NAMFREL Focus Group Discussion on AES (April 28, 2023, Bayleaf Intramuros);
2. NAMFREL Discussion on an Alternative Automated Election System (during the PARTICIPATE Democracy Summit) (May 11, 2023, Novotel Manila Araneta City);
3. A virtual FGD regarding the Terms of Reference that was released by COMELEC (May 16, 2023, via Zoom); and
4. NAMFREL Stakeholders' Forum on an Alternative AES (May 26, 2023, The Manila Hotel)

In these activities, NAMFREL secured from the participants their opinions and recommendations on the AES, particularly the following:

- The advantages of the current AES;
- Top concerns regarding the current AES;
- The standards that should be included in determining any new election system to be adopted;
- The election system that should be adopted for 2025 and the top features that this system should have;
- The top minimum system capabilities that should be prioritized for the 2025 AES
- The type of technology that should be used for the 2025 AES

This Call to Action have already been sent last Friday, July 28, 2023, to the COMELEC, the Senate Committee on Suffrage, Electoral Reforms and People's Participation (CERPP), the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms (CSER), and the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB).

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

ANGEL S. AVERIA, JR.
National Chairperson