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NAMFREL Statement on Election-Related Violence Ahead of the 2025 Mid-Term Elections

The National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) strongly condemns the alarming rise in election-related violence as the campaign period for the Philippine mid-term elections in May approaches. These violent incidents undermine the principles of democracy and threaten the integrity of the electoral process. NAMFREL calls on all candidates, political parties, and their supporters to reject violence as a means to secure victory at any cost.

Violence has no place in a democratic society. It is antithetical to the free and fair exercise of elections and serves only to perpetuate fear, coercion, and division. Whether used to gain an advantage, intimidate opponents, or as a tool for reprisal, such actions are counterproductive and only lead to further bloodshed. We urge all stakeholders to prioritize peace and orderliness as the campaign period begins.

NAMFREL appeals to candidates and their supporters to engage in healthy competition through peaceful means. We encourage community-led initiatives such as dialogues, candidates forums, social covenants among competing candidates, and other non-violent activities that promote understanding and mutual respect. These efforts are essential in de-escalating tensions and fostering a culture of peace during this critical time.

To address this pressing issue, NAMFREL, alongside our civil society partners, commits to monitoring potential flashpoints of violence and intervening to prevent escalation before harm occurs. We also urge citizens to remain vigilant and actively participate in promoting peace within their communities. By exercising moral suasion over candidates and their campaigns, voters can influence the conduct of elections toward transparency and integrity.

Lastly, we exhort the Filipino electorate to uphold democratic values by rejecting any form of violence or intimidation. Let us work together to ensure that the 2025 mid-term elections reflect the true will of the people – a testament to our collective commitment to democracy.

NAMFREL remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard free, orderly, and honest elections. Let us all do our part in building a peaceful and democratic society where every vote counts without fear or violence. ###

