



# ELECTION MONITOR

**National Citizens' Movement  
for Free Elections  
(NAMFREL)**

**Volume 2, No.19  
August 27, 2011**

[www.Namfrel.org.ph](http://www.Namfrel.org.ph)

## **Members of investigation team to look into alleged poll fraud named**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has named the members of the fact-finding team that will assist the joint DOJ-Comelec body that will investigate allegations of fraud in connection with the 2004 and 2007 national elections. DOJ Assistant Secretary Zabedin M. Azis chairs the fact-finding team, with the following as members: Malabon-Navotas City Prosecutor Jorge G. Catalan Jr., Muntinlupa City Prosecutor Edward M. Togonon, and NBI lawyers Cesar Bacani and Dante Jacinto. The fact-finding team is given 45 days to gather evidence, after which they will submit their report to the joint DOJ-Comelec special investigative committee.

As stated in the joint order by the DOJ and Comelec released on August 15, the fact-finding team will have the following duties:

"a. Gather and document reports, intelligence information, and investigative leads from official as well as unofficial sources and informants;

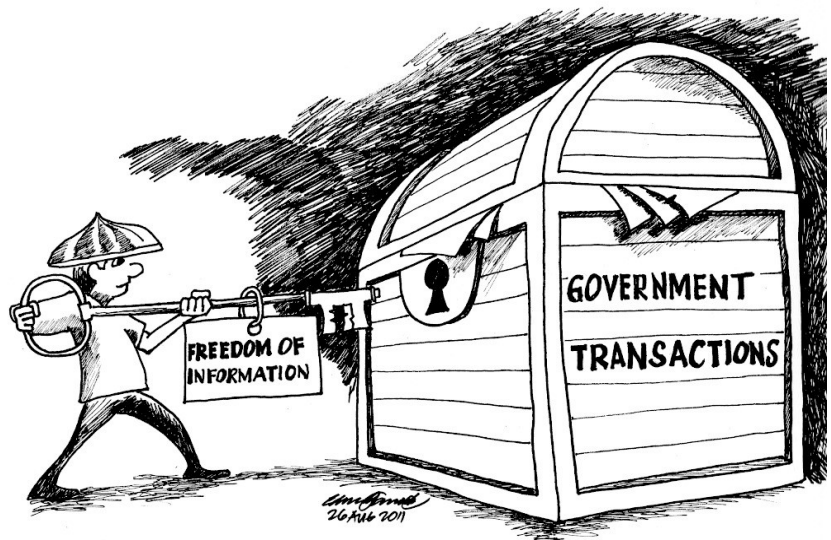
b. Conduct interviews, record testimonies, take affidavits of witnesses, and collate material and relevant documentary evidence, such as, but not limited to, election documents used in the 2004 and 2007 national elections. For security reasons, or to protect the identities of informants, the Fact-finding Team may conduct interviews or document testimonies discreetly;

c. Assess and evaluate affidavits already executed and other documentary evidence submitted or may be submitted to the Fact-finding Team and/or the Committee;

d. Identify the offenders, their offenses and the manner of their commission, individually or in conspiracy, and the provisions of election and general criminal laws violated, establish evidence for individual criminal and administrative liability and prosecution, and prepare the necessary documentation such as complaints and charge sheets for the initiation of preliminary investigation proceedings against said individuals to be conducted by the Committee;

e. Regularly submit to the Committee, the Secretary of Justice and the Chairman of the Comelec periodic reports and recommendations, supported by real, testimonial and documentary evidence, which may then serve as the Committee's basis for immediately commencing appropriate preliminary investigation proceedings;

f. Upon the termination of its investigation, make a full and final report to the Committee, the Secretary of Justice, and the Chairman of the Comelec."



This joint DOJ-Comelec special investigative committee is headed by chief state prosecutor Claro Arellano, with the following members: Laguna provincial prosecutor George Dee, Pasig City prosecutor Jacinto Ang, Comelec Law Department director Ferdinand Rafanan, and Atty. Michael Villaret of Comelec. During the presentation of the committee members to the media early this month, DOJ secretary Leila De Lima and Comelec chairman Sixto Brillantes, Jr. reiterated that the joint investigation is not intended to end in the determination of the "true

winners" of the 2004 and 2007 elections -- which will just be an "incidental" matter should the "true winners" be arrived at -- but to "determine fraud."

Namfrel welcomes the formation of the joint panel that will investigate the allegations of fraud in connection with the 2004 and 2007 polls. In a [joint statement](#) released last week, Namfrel and the Makati Business Club call on the DOJ and Comelec to "ensure that a thorough, transparent, and impartial probe be undertaken so that the restoration of the people's trust in our electoral processes can begin," and expressed hope that "it is not too late to correct the problems and undertake the reforms that will ensure that these electoral anomalies do not occur again in the future."

In related news, one of the members of the joint committee, Comelec Law Department director Ferdinand Rafanan, has complained that due to his being assigned as Comelec representative to the joint investigative committee, he was effectively replaced as Law Department director through a Comelec [resolution](#) that named Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento as Commissioner-in-Charge of the Law Department, and also transferred to the said office Atty. Allen Abaya from the Comelec ECAD (Electoral Contests and Adjudication Department). Atty. Abaya was one of the Comelec officers suspended for six months last year in connection with the overpriced folders scam, the investigation of which was spearheaded by Rafanan. Though the Comelec denies that Rafanan is being replaced, and the resolution states that the reshuffling will be temporary, Comelec chairman Brillantes seemed to have indicated in an [interview](#) that Rafanan might not get his position back. In a recent development on the overpriced folder issue, the Office of the Ombudsman has found Atty. Abaya and two other members of Comelec's Bids and Awards Committee guilty. Cleared of any liability though are Comelec executive director Jose Tolentino and two others who were also given the six-month suspension last year.

(Various news sources)

## 60 vie for OIC-ARMM Governor

by Nestor D. Malapajo, Jr., NAMFREL volunteer

At least 60 people have either applied formally or have been nominated to the position of Officer-In-Charge Regional Governor for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Other OIC positions available are those of the Regional Vice- Governor (1) and the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) composed of 24 members from all the districts in the provinces of Basilain, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has set the deadline, with no extension, for the submission of applications until 5pm on Friday, August 26, 2011.

Below is the list of applicants/nominees the DILG has received as of August 23:

For OIC Governor		
1. Abantas, Zulfikar J.	21. Halipa, Sulay H.	41. Mastura, Michael
2. Abubakar, Ismael B.	22. Hassan, Hatimil E.	42. Mimbatas, Aleem Abdul Aziz
3. Ali, Omar "Solitario"	23. Hassan, Nur Abubakar	43. Moner, Aleem Ansarodin S Lucman
4. Ali, Sanchez	24. Hataman, Mujib S.	44. Muhammad, Yusoph I. "DatuOskie"
5. Alonto Abdani T.	25. Husein, Dr. Jaypee Basheer A.Y.	45. Mujiv, Hataman
6. Alonto, AbulKhayr D.	26. Isnaji, Alvarez C.	46. Pangarungan, Saidamen B.
7. Alonto-Lucman, DatuNorodin	27. Jaafar, Ghazali	47. Pundato, Dimasangcay A.
8. Amir – Hussin, Datu Salipada A.	28. Jamhal, iHadja Jeanette D.	48. Saludin, Saidina Eysa
9. Balangi, Maulana A.	29. Kabalu, Mustapha "Eid"	49. Sani, Punduma B.
10. Barra, Dr. Hamid A.	30. Langkuno, Abdulkarim T.	50. Saud Al – Haj, Sultan Mangakop U.
11. Boyog-Mama, Datu Yusoph	31. Lanto, Macabangkit B.	51. Sayre, Datu Said Ja- Alain
12. Camlian, Al	32. Lucman, Datu Alrashed A.	52. Sadain, Mehol
13. Candao, Zacaria A.	33. Lucman, Datu Norodin Alonto	53. Sema, Datu Muslimin G.
14. Datimbang, Sultan Bobby M.	34. Maglangit, Raida B.	54. Sharief-Ador, Dra. Norma M.
15. Dianalan, Jiamil M.	35. Mambuay, Cader B.	55. Solaiman, Ali – Asgar M.
16. Dilangalen, Datu Didagen "DIGS"	36. Mamondiong, Guiling A.	56. Tago, Paisalin D.
17. Dimaporo, Hatta Dimakuta	37. Mangudadatu, Esmael "Toto"	57. Tamano, Salipada S.
18. Djamil, Sultan Aleem Abdulmajeed D.	38. Mangudadatu, Pax	58. Tillah, Ide
19. Esmael, Abdelnasser V.	39. Mastura, Al – haj, Datu Tucao Ahmad	
20. Hadjinor, AlimAbdulbasit A.	40. Mastura, Kudarat V, Sultan Abdulaziz Salim D.	

		59. Timuay, Ust. Jayton Jala 60. Ulangkaya, Salipada T.
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FOR OIC VICE-GOVERNOR	
1. Abubakar, Hji Lad Jakaya S. 2. Alonto, Zafrullah M. 3. Datimbang, Bobby M. 4. Hadjinor, Alim Abdulbasi	5. Ladjalah, Hamid K. 6. Mamondiong, Atty. Guilling 7. Pacalna, Baguinda – Ali Acmad 8. Tago, Paisalin D.

FOR OIC REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
BASILAN	
1. Abasal, Atal J. 2. Abdurahman, Taib A. 3. Akbar, Omar M. 4. Alam, Mursidi M. 5. Al-Amin, Ahmad Y. 6. Awilun, Abdalun H. 7. Hamja, Jarah A. 8. Hussein, Jaypee Basheer A. Y. 9. Ibama, Amad Julian	10. Insung, Nathan B. 11. Mamang, Mario M. 12. Mujahid, Alim Abdulmuhmin A. 13. Sahao, Albert A. 14. Said, Jubaira S. 15. Salajin Al Hadj, Sakib A. 16. Sampang, UstadzDatuJhularab 17. Samsa, Mohammad AlihMustal 18. Wahi, Abdulsalim K.

FOR OIC REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
LANA O DEL SUR	
1 <sup>ST</sup> District  1. Alonto, Datu Haj Ansari D. 2. Amate, A'lim Saad Ibrahim 3. Balangi, Maulana A. 4. Bansao, Amrosi D. 5. Cali, Paisal I. 6. Disamburun, Alinog M. 7. Dumarpa, FaydahManiri 8. Gandamra, Majul U. 9. Gutoc, Samera A. 10. Ismael, Aquil P. 11. Lanto, Maamor D. 12. Macalangcom, YussufCandidato R. 13. Macabangkit, Zaragoza 14. Macaumbos, Datu Jubair L. 15. Madid, Nomaire M. 16. Mapandi, Jr., Gonoranao U. 17. Mitmug, Jr., Rasul Yap 18. Naga, Yasir Pangadapun 19. Pacasum, SaripadaLucman Jr. 20. Rasuman, Magombaya D. 21. Solaiman, Ali-AsgarMacabago 22. Tomawis, Ismael M.	2 <sup>nd</sup> District  1. Amatonding, Bai Pindao L. 2. Ampaso, Abdulasis L. 3. Balindong, Yasser A. 4. Bantao, Zahrain M. 5. Bashier, Owaida T. 6. Hadjinor, Alim Abdulbasit A. 7. Macadato, Macacuna B. 8. Macapanton, Datu Ibra 9. Pamaloy, Madaraop B. 10. Paramihan, Alonto P. 11. Sumay, Camar D. 12. Tago, Paisalan P. 13. Yahya, Ahmad Tambas L.

FOR OIC REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
MAGUINDANAO	
1 <sup>ST</sup> District  1. Abdula, Odin T. 2. Adamat, Dr. Ronald L. 3. Algabre, Shiela 4. Ambolodto, Datu Habib S. 5. Bajunaid, Baglaph M. 6. Baraguir, Manan O. 7. Blao, Datu Khadafy Dilangalen 8. Kusain, Arafat A. 9. Lauban, Datu Marhomsal K. 10. Lidasan, Armando D. 11. Mangutara, Mimbawag 12. Mastura, Camarod P.	2 <sup>nd</sup> District  1. Amolan, Ramon Mike C. 2. Ampatuan, Abdel Roden A. 3. Ampatuan, Aladdin I. 4. Ampatuan, Settie Farah M. 5. Bagundang, Kim M. 6. Esmael, Basit K. 7. Lumenda, Bensadie T. 8. Makakena, Saidali M. 9. Mangudadatu, Khadafeh G. 10. Mentang, Datu Pike T. 11. Midtimbang, Datu Nathaneil S. 12. Midtimbang, Midpantao M.

13. Mastura, Habib M. 14. Mastura, Ishak V. 15. Sabpa, Datu Nestor B. 16. Sinsuat, Datu Bimbo Q. 17. Sinsuat, Datu Roonie Q. 18. Zaman, Saipona U.	13. Mohammad, Edzrael L. 14. Sabpel, Abdullatip P.
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FOR OIC REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
SULU	
1 <sup>ST</sup> District  1. Abubakar Halman Rene Hernandez 2. Annil, DM, Dr. Amildasa D. 3. Burahan, Nedra S. 4. Gumbahali, Edmund C. 5. Hassan, Alhabsi M. 6. Indanan, SR. Abdurhaman S. 7. Izquierdo-Isahac, Dr. Charina (MPH) 8. Salahuddin, Abijar-E Anam 9. Timuay, Jayton Jala 10. Tingkahan, Rizal Jr. A. 11. Tulawie, Nevocadnizar 12. Ynawat, Nazir H. 13. Tulawie, Benhajar T.	2 <sup>nd</sup> District  1. Ali, Nadia A. 2. Anni, Abdel S. 3. Burahan, Anton 4. Daiman, Nouh M. 5. Daud, Dehama T. 6. Estino, Abdullajid S. 7. Estino, Bensar S. 8. Jauhari, Abdulbasit A. 9. Karimuddin, AbdulwahabJala 10. Sangkula, Nurudum A. 11. Tulawie, Nurwiza S.

FOR OIC REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	
TAWI-TAWI	
1. Abubakar, Ponchita S. 2. Ahaja, Bahidjan Rowena K. 3. Alih, Eddie M. 4. Bawasanta, Rodolfo Antoyan 5. Dayan, Al-Trekee Pon 6. Hajiri, Hadji Hadar M.	7. Kadil, Nasser M. 8. Kamaluddin, Mabibi Kiram H. 9. Mahalan, Teddy H. 10. Matolo, Shameera S. 11. Mustapha, Joe Omar 12. Tambut, Amirbahar A.

The DILG, which is also a member of the Screening Committee for the ARMM-OIC, said it will give due preference to prospective applicants and nominees who will have no intention to run for any elective position in the next ARMM Election which will be synchronized with the midterm elections in May 2013.

The other members of the screening and selection panel are the Secretary of the Department of National Defense, the Presidential Political Adviser, a Civil Society representative and one LGU representative.

The complete list of names of applicants will be published in the media by August 31. Then, from September 1 to September 11, the screening committee will conduct an assessment of all candidates and come up with a short list of three potential candidates for each position who will be subjected to media interview and for public scrutiny.

The shortlisted three applicants in every position will be ranked and endorsed separately to the Senate President and House Speaker, who will in turn submit their respective recommendations for approval and signature of the President.

By October of this year, the President should already have announced the names of the appointed OICs whose term will expire until the officials duly elected in the May 2013 elections shall have qualified and assumed office.

(Source: DILG)

## Puentevella vs. Leonardia recount underway

On Monday, August 22, 2011, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) started the manual revision of ballots contested in relation to the protest filed by former Bacolod City representative Monico Puentevella against incumbent Mayor Evelio Leonardia. The two faced off during the 2010 elections for the mayoralty position of the city.

Initially, Puentevella moved that the ballots from all the 307 precincts in the city be recounted, but after considering the cost that he would incur, the number of precincts was reduced to just 186. And out of the 186 ballot boxes, only 37, or 20%, of which were sent to the COMELEC office in Manila for the recount. The losing mayoral candidate filed his protest on May 24, 2010, alleging fraudulent acts during the casting, counting and transmission of votes committed by the Board of Election Tellers (BET) under Leonardia's schemes.

Reports said that Leonardia did not file any counter charges as he is confident in the way by which the election was conducted and that the result was the genuine will of the people.

The result of the counting showed Puentevella garnered 86,437 votes while Leonardia got 93,850 votes, a difference of 7,413. During the counting, some 4,805 ballots were rejected by the machines as these were crumpled, torn, had unnecessary markings or stained.

A lawyer of Leonardia said that Puentevella went to see the conduct of the recount when it started but he was asked to step out of the venue. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the Comelec Election Contests Adjudication Department (ECAD) asked the protestant to leave as the Election Code provides that candidates are not allowed to enter the premises where votes are being counted. Only the lawyers of the candidates, election officers and revisors authorized by the commission are allowed inside the "revision room" of the Comelec.

Meanwhile, Leonardia's camp becomes more confident as initial result of the recount shows that he is leading. Both camps await the development of the recount.

## **Freedom of Information Act: A deliberate delay?**

by Edward C. Torcuato, NAMFREL Assistant Project Coordinator

After it was drafted in 2008, House Bill 3732, otherwise known as the "Freedom of Information Act of 2008," is yet to be ratified as the 14<sup>th</sup> congress under the leadership of Speaker Prospero Nograles fell short by seven (7) congressmen to complete the 135 votes needed. Because of this failure, Speaker Nograles drew criticisms from journalists.

The bill was drafted to give people access to public records and information regarding transactions that involve public interest, as provided under Section 28, Article II of the 1987 Constitution. One of the salient features of the proposed bill is for all government agencies to make their transactions available to the public utilizing all possible means (bulletin boards, agency website) and that they "regularly publish and disseminate, at no cost to the public and in accessible form, by print and through their website, timely, accurate and updated key information."

If the proposed bill becomes a law, the public will be armed with information on the transactions that the various government agencies are entering into. This can now pave the way for people's participation in good governance, and for the concerned people to play a vital role in evaluating if these government agencies are efficient in their dealings and transactions. The more the people are aware, the lesser the chances of the public officials to usurp their authority.

A good number of civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) in the Philippines have been closely monitoring the ratification of the bill, and the eventuality of having it signed into a law. CSOs and NGOs that advocate good governance have highlighted the importance of gaining access to records of government transactions as this will allow them to make a more intensive evaluation to determine the legitimacy of such transactions, thus upholding transparency.

If what these CSOs and NGOs claim holds true, then the ratification of the bill during Pres. Aquino's term can become an affirmation of the administration's moves to combat corruption. Hopes are high as the current administration entered into the arena with the curtailment of corruption as one of its programs. From the campaign period for the 2010 presidential elections up to present, the public still eagerly awaits the government as it moves forward to translate its "Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap" vision into achievable plans of actions.

At present, only a few entities have access to selected government records and other information. In the occurrence of irregularities, only a few can cry foul, and doing so with very limited pieces of evidence can be futile once engaged in a legal battle in efforts to sanction the perpetrators of corrupt practices. If a significant portion of the general public is aware of government transactions, then the chances of eradicating corruption is higher.

Concerned citizens want government officials that undertake transactions involving public interest to be held accountable and corresponding consequences for failure to comply should be upheld and enforced to ensure

that irregularities in government transactions are appropriately dealt with.

With the lackluster action of the House of Representatives on the Freedom of Information bill during the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress and now the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress, concerned groups are doubtful about the capacity of legislators to see the bill passed into law. An [article](#) by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) on House Speaker Prospero Nograles' wealth surge in 14 years hints that this could be one of the reasons why some legislators seemed to be reluctant in allowing the bill to gain mileage for ratification and passage.

Concerned groups are wary that the delay in ratifying the bill could be deliberate as it could work against any government official, including legislators, once it becomes a law.

## **Focus on West Papua (Part 2)**

by Paolo B. Maligaya, NAMFREL Senior Operations Associate

*(Mr. Maligaya was in West Papua to observe the July 20, 2011 gubernatorial election for the Asian Network for Free Elections - ANFREL)*

In 2003, the Indonesian half of New Guinea -- called "Irian Jaya" (IRIAN said to mean "Ikut Republik Indonesia Anti-Nederland"), and then officially called "Papua" up to that point -- was divided into two administrative provinces: Papua in the east, retaining the city of Jayapura as capital, and West Papua, with the city of Manokwari as capital.

The decision by then-President Megawati Sukarnoputri to split the region --- originally into three provinces including one that was to be named Central Papua -- remains controversial, as, it is argued, that it was done without consulting the Papuan people, and that it was against the terms of the special autonomy. Following various show of force in 2000 by Papuans demanding independence, the Indonesian government granted special autonomy status to western Papua in 2001 -- reportedly without the involvement of Papuan organizations and political parties -- to quell the calls for independence and to provide solutions to the problems in Papua. A draft of the autonomy law was made by a Papuan team of academicians precisely to address the numerous issues troubling the region, but many of the provisions were reportedly rejected for the final bill. According to the autonomy law, any policy that would affect Papuans would have to be approved by the Papuan People's Council (Majelis Rakyat Papua - MRP); however, this provision did not make it to the final version of the law. In 2004, Megawati's decision was declared unconstitutional by the courts, but it was too late as the two provinces had already been established. The establishment of a third one, Central Papua, was prevented. In the post-Suharto era, the creation of new administrative districts became prevalent throughout the country, purportedly to enable citizens to have greater access to government services and facilities, although many argue that the division/splitting up of existing provinces and districts are encouraged by those who want to head said districts and just facilitate corruption. Some see the move as divisive, to the extent of calling it "divide and conquer," in a country where calls for independence have been initiated in not a few of the archipelago's island provinces inhabited by numerous distinct ethnic groups. In western Papua, the people also saw transmigrants getting the white-collar jobs created by the establishment of new districts, as they are unable to compete effectively.

The province of West Papua, with less than a million in total population, is now composed of 11 regencies (kabupaten/kota), with Sorong as the largest city, and Manokwari as the administrative capital. Two of these regencies -- Tambrauw and Maybrat -- were recently formed, taking areas that used to belong to South Sorong regency (in the case of Maybrat), and Sorong (in the case of Tambrauw). The legality of the creation of these two districts are still being questioned, and the residents are said to have rejected the idea. The heads of these two new regencies were scheduled to be elected in 2011 along with the new governor and vice governor.

Abraham Octavianus Atuturi, a Papuan and a retired general of the Indonesian military, had been the governor of West Papua since the province was established in 2003, winning reelection in 2006. Before getting elected governor, he was the Bupati (regent) of Sorong from 1992 to 1997, and deputy governor of Irian Jaya (the whole of western Papua) from 1996-2000. For the 2011 gubernatorial election, he ran for re-election, along with the incumbent vice-governor, Rahimin Katjong. As the incumbent and being very influential, he was touted as the frontrunner to win the election, and many believed that his victory was a done deal.

The gubernatorial election in West Papua had already been postponed three times: from the original date of April 30, it was postponed to May 23, then was re-scheduled for June 27.



The reasons for the postponements may be more complicated than what the voting population knows through media reports. Along with the team of incumbents, the gubernatorial election was also being contested by three more pairs of candidates, the most prominent of whom was Domingus Mandacan, an elite from the Arfak tribe and who was the former Bupati of Manokwari. As reported through the media and through public pronouncements, the three pairs of candidates seemed to have formed a loose coalition against the incumbents. The candidacies of the incumbents were being assailed: Governor Atuturi for not being able to comply with a recent requirement that candidates should have a college degree, and Vice Governor Katjong for not being of Papuan origin ethnically (although there is no legal document that officially defines who may be considered a Papuan). An appeal was officially endorsed to the MRP (Majelis Rakyat Papua) or the Papuan People's Council based in Jayapura in Papua province. The MRP is tasked to ensure the upholding of Papuan culture, a task set forth in the autonomy law, but a limited one if to be compared with the original intention of those who first drafted the said law. The involvement of the MRP was made more complicated when elites in West Papua province decided they wanted to have an MRP of their own, thus was born MRP-B, Majelis Rakyat Papua Barat, or the West Papua People's Council, who now wanted to be the one to approve the candidacies of those who wanted to contest the election, after being approved by the provincial election commission. However, the MRP-B would not be inaugurated until June 15, which caused the election to be delayed, and the identities of the members of the MRP-B were not divulged immediately to the public, said to be for security reasons. The central government in Jakarta reportedly approved of the creation of the MRP-B, but many of those who voiced opposition said that its creation is not enshrined in the autonomy law; that it was created to cause disunity; and that the members of the MRP-B might be more inclined to approve of the candidacy of the incumbents, which they did almost immediately after the MRP-B's inauguration.



Governor Atuturi during the campaign in Manokwari

While all of these were happening, election related violence against election officials and inter-tribal conflict occurred in kabupaten Tambora and Maybrat, which forced the offices of the election commission in said areas to relocate to nearby regencies. Meanwhile, the KPU (Komisi Pemilihan Umum - the election commission) had delivery of election materials to attend to, which, in a province like West Papua, can be a big challenge due to the rugged terrain.

The three pairs of candidates running against the incumbents intensified their opposition, calling for further postponement and even cancellation of the election through direct lobbying in Jakarta. They refused to participate in the campaign, though curiously their campaign billboards were not taken down. Demonstrations of supporters in Manokwari were held, especially after the three pairs of candidates were unsuccessful in Jakarta, and even the office of the Panwaslu (election supervisory committee) in Manokwari was forcibly closed. There were reports of intimidation and death threats directed to the members of the election commission and their families, and even the chief of police, although it was not clear from whom the threat was coming. As a final push, the three candidate pairs urged their tribe members to boycott the election, through word-of-mouth and pamphlets distributed in the villages, which made people unsure whether the election would even push through.

It was in this environment of uncertainty and confusion that the gubernatorial election in West Papua indeed pushed through on July 20, 2011.

(To be continued)

## Cambodian free and fair election advocate to receive Ramon Magsaysay Award

Namfrel would like to congratulate Mr. Koul Panha, Executive Director of Committee for Free Elections (COMFREL) -- a non-partisan election monitoring organization in Cambodia -- for being named as one of the recipients of this year's prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Awards. Mr. Panha is being recognized for *"his determined and courageous leadership of the sustained campaign to build an enlightened, organized and vigilant citizenry who will ensure fair and free elections -- as well as demand accountable governance by their elected officials -- in Cambodia's nascent democracy."*

With Mr. Panha at the helm, COMFREL has been the primary advocate of free and fair elections and electoral reform in Cambodia, as well as citizens participation in good governance and in seeking accountability from elected officials. COMFREL has been one of the most active advocates of democracy in the Southeast Asian region, and like Namfrel, has been one of the key member-institutions of the Bangkok-based Asian Network for Free Elections, of which Mr. Panha is the Vice Chairman.

The [Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation](#) is inviting the public to its [Lecture Series](#) featuring this year's awardees, to be held at the Ramon Magsaysay Center in Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Mr. Koul Panha's lecture, entitled "Creating Paths for Sustainable Citizen Vigilance in a Young Democracy," will be held on September 2 at 3:30pm.



Read a profile on Mr. Panha by the Phnom Penh Post [HERE](#)  
Watch a short video clip on Mr. Panha prepared by ANFREL [HERE](#)  
Visit COMFREL's website: [www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org)

## GALLERY



On the set of the TV5 public affairs program Duelo (Electoral Reform Series) hosted by former Sen. Richard Gordon. Namfrel Sec. Gen. Eric Alvia was one of the resource persons invited to discuss political party and campaign finance reform on August 11, 2011.





World Bank - Philippine Development Forum Sub-Working Group on Procurement meeting on August 15. Seen is Department of Budget and Management ASec. Ruby Alvarez & WB's Chiyo Kanda discussing the Country Procurement Assessment Report (CPAR) & the Agency Procurement Compliance and Performance Indicators (APCPI). Namfrel is one of the CSO partners in the working group advocating and pursuing procurement reforms in the public as well as the private sector.



Poster in the office of the Panwaslu (Panitia Pengawas Pemilihan Umum), or the General Election Supervisory Committee, in Manokwari, West Papua. The Panwaslu is a government agency in Indonesia independent of the election commission, tasked to oversee the conduct of the election process, receive complaints, and resolve administrative violations of election rules at the provincial/district/municipal level.



Chief of a far-flung village in Ransiki, West Papua, in front of a school that did not appear to have been in use for a while, although the village chief claimed this school will serve as a voting center the following day.

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