



ELECTION MONITOR

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

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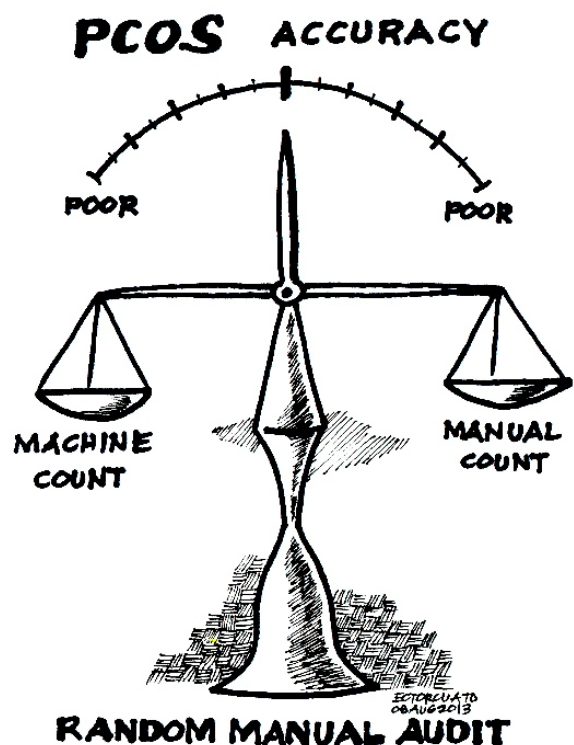
Executive Summary of NAMFREL's Report on the conduct of its Random Manual Audit Monitoring project for the May 13, 2013 National and Local Elections

NAMFREL deployed on May 13, 2013 teams of volunteers (including members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Jaycees) for Random Manual Audit Monitoring (RMAM), to observe the conduct of the RMA by the Comelec's RMA teams, and to make a report on the results of the manual count vis-a-vis the PCOS count. Of the 234 clustered precincts chosen by the Comelec for the RMA, NAMFREL volunteers were able to submit reports with complete data for only 130, which were the basis for this analysis.

In summarizing and analyzing the RMAM tally form data submitted by the observers, NAMFREL focused on the variances between the Automated Count and the RMA Count considering three metrics contained in official documents and directives coming from the Comelec. NAMFREL's findings are presented without the benefit of an analysis of the nature or evaluation of the causes of the variances, thus, any variances noted between the PCOS machine count (AES result) and the manual count (RMA Result) are treated as a machine error for the purpose of this report.

- Metric I. The expected accuracy (99.995%) of the PCOS machines under the Terms of Reference and Request for Proposal for the AES contract and as published in the daily papers;
- Metric II. Discrepancies of ten votes per candidate per position stated in Section 12 of Comelec Resolution No. 9595;
- Metric III. Aggregate difference of ten votes under Section 13 of the same Resolution (No. 9595, as amended).

Below is a summary of the findings resulting from the analysis of the RMA as observed by NAMFREL volunteers on the ground using the three different metrics, discussed in greater detail in the report:



Metric 1	Metric 2	Metric 3
99.995 % accuracy of the PCOS machines	Margin of ten (10) votes per candidate per position (SECTION 12 of Res. 9595) Note: 10 or less is allowed	Aggregate variance of 10 votes" (SECTION 13 of Res. 9595, as amended by Res. 9647 Note: 10 or less is allowed
1.1) Allowable error of one (1) for every 20,000 marks Results: Total of 7,210	Results: Met the allowed margin - 118 PCOS or 90.77 % . Exceeded the allowed margin – 12 PCOS or 9.23 %	3.1) For the 33 Senatorial Candidates per Clustered Precinct or Ballot Box Results: Met the allowed

variances out of 633,297 marks translates to an accuracy rate of 98.86 %.		margin - 43 PCOS or 33.08 % Exceeded the allowed margin – 87 PCOS or 66.92 %
1.2) Allowable error of one (1) per PCOS – Results: Met the allowed margin - 15 PCOS or 11.54 % Exceeded the allowed margin - 115 PCOS or 88.46 %		3.2) For All Positions: Results: Met the allowed margin – 32 PCOS or 24.62 % Exceeded the threshold – 98 PCOS or 75.38 %

Based on the results of the RMA as well as the observation reports submitted by NAMFREL volunteers, NAMFREL recommends to Comelec to, among others, seriously consider the propriety of reusing the same PCOS machines in future elections; design a clearer and simpler audit procedure; and conduct the "root cause determination" for variances at the precinct level in the interest of transparency. NAMFREL also recommends the amendment of the election automation law to define in clearer terms the purpose of random manual audit, taking into consideration its possible role in the resolution of electoral protests.

(NAMFREL's full report on its RMA monitoring project was submitted to the Comelec on July 5, 2013.)

Random Manual Audit in Manila

by Mark Lester D. Toribio, Chairperson, NAMFREL-Manila



Monitoring the conduct of the Random Manual Audit was one of the important projects conducted by Namfrel in the May elections, to help assess the accuracy of the count of the PCOS machines. The RMA is one of the safeguards under RA 9369 (Election Automation Law), the main purpose of which is to validate the accuracy of the machine count and ensure the integrity and acceptability of the automated election results. Manual auditing of the ballots requires great effort and speed on the part of the BEIs and the random manual audit team (RMAT) since the process of conducting the manual audit starts only after the votes have been transmitted (as per instruction), with the counting of the ballots done manually.

Random manual audit monitoring observations in Manila

The process started late. The Random Manual Audit proceeding in 6 (six) districts of Manila started late because of the delay in transmission, particularly to the KBP server. Given such dilemma the audit process was delayed and the working hours were prolonged.

In District 4 (Esteban Abada High School) the transmission did not occur because the PCOS Machines were not functioning. The RMAT skipped the process and directly proceeded to conduct the RMA. According to the chairman of the RMAT, this was done upon the advice of the election officer. NAMFREL volunteers did not have a chance to verify this advice because based on the guidelines they could not intervene or express any opinion.

Lack of interest of Stakeholders. Only NAMFREL-Manila Volunteers were present as observers during the entire auditing process. No political watchers or other Citizen's Arm volunteers were present. According to the guidelines: The Random Manual Audit shall be conducted in the presence of Poll Watchers, Political Parties, Citizen's Arm Groups, Media and the Public.

Lack of information for candidates and supporters which resulted to conflict and tension. In District 4, before the Random Manual Audit was conducted in Esteban Abada High School, tension occurred between political party watchers and the BEI. The watchers wanted to include councilors in the manual counting. In the presence of the PNP and the school principal, the RMAT team showed the guidelines to the watchers, which state that “In no way shall the results of the RMA delay the proclamation of the winning candidates based on the results reached by the AES.” The poll watchers left the school after being shown the guidelines, leaving only two NAMFREL volunteers to observe the process.

Lack of supervision from COMELEC. During the entire proceedings of the random manual audit, no Comelec officials or representatives visited the polling place. Comelec did not even provide food or snacks for the RMAT; Namfrel-Manila voluntarily bought food and drinks for the members of the RMAT particularly in Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Tedious process; lack of substitute member. Random Manual Audit Teams did not follow their functions based on their designation. They shifted tasks; they did not have substitute members. For this reason, RMAT were tempted to fast track the process for convenience, but because NAMFREL observers were present during the audit process they could not do so.

Process hastened, results of the tally adjusted. In Manuel Araullo High School, the aggregate variance indicated in the RMA Report/Minutes was only 4. However, NAMFREL-Manila volunteers reported that the RMA BEI adjusted the manual tally results for each candidate whenever there is a difference with the corresponding AES results, to make them equal. Based on our calculations, the real aggregate variance easily exceeded 10. According to the RMAT, the variance could have been caused by their error in tallying manually. Thus, they saw it justifiable to adjust the results of the manual tally and make them conform to the AES tally.



The Random Manual Audit was conceptualized as one of the safeguards of the automated election, to assure the public that the results of the automated election is truly reflective of the people’s will as expressed in their ballots during election day. It serves as an internal check and barometer on how accurately the PCOS machines counted our votes. This is indeed very important in assuring the public, most especially the candidates who lost in the count by only a minimal number of votes, that the election was fair, honest and credible. We commend the Comelec for instituting this measure, as well as the efforts of the teachers who served as members of the RMAT who worked tirelessly overnight after the elections.

However, while the Comelec and the Random Manual Audit teams certify that the outcome of the RMA validates the results of the 2013 elections with 99.9747% reliability, and NSO claims that the variance was minimal to affect election results, several issues and problems concerning procedures however need to be addressed in order for RMA to better serve its purpose especially for the coming 2016 National elections. The claims of the Commission may be valid based on official figures submitted from the field; however, the circumstances and issues on how these figures were generated may be an entirely different story.

NAMFREL-Manila would like to recognize the efforts of the chapters' different NAMFREL RMA monitoring teams in the following areas:

District 1- Tondo	Brgy 70 253AB, 254AB	Manuel L. Quezon E.S.
District 2- Tondo	Brgy 202A 809A,810AB, 811A	Felipe Calderon E.S.
District 3- Santa Cruz	Brgy 329 1521A, 1522A, 1523A 1524A, 1525A	Antonio Regidor E.S.
District 4- Sampaloc	Brgy 484 2272AB, 2273AC	Esteban Abada H.S.
District 5- Paco	Brgy 664A 2673AB	Manuel Araullo H.S.
District 6- Paco	Brgy 830 3361ABCD	Carlos Garcia H.S.

District 1: Chairman: Dex Toribio,
Members: Cris Caballero, Alex Tolentino

District 2: Chairman: Helen Parraggua
Members: Lav Gutierrez, Jon Toribio

District 3: Chairman: Lec Toribio
Members: Ren Romero, Laila Cuadernal, Charlie Gaw, Jason Alacapa, Serge Aclan, Caloy Melad, Joel Dayrit, Carlo Galarrita

District 4: Chairman: Albert Oasan
Member: Ann Mauricio, May Estrada, Noel Bernardo, Reiner Tamayo

District 5: Chairman: Chino Adasa
Member: Marvin Tio, Ralph Tan, Ryan Cancio

District 6: Chairman: Ronald Bunag
Member: Kath Felizardo, Mae Aruta, Denise Gallardo

Extending Voters' Education to the Crucial Sectors

by Joan Jamisolamin and Nestor M. Banuag, Jr. (Chairperson), Volunteers, NAMFREL-CDO/Misamis Oriental



The sight of young people carrying huge placards and walking around the public markets is something that is not seen everyday, and indeed they drew the attention of vendors, hawkers, buyers, passersby and commuters. They were NAMFREL Volunteers encouraging people at the market to go out during election day and conscientiously vote. This was a new arena where NAMFREL CDO-Mis.Or. Chapter brought their voters' education program (VEP) to. According to a survey conducted by Xavier University, the vendors at the public markets were one of the sectors which has a very low voters turnout. Reportedly, many of the vendors prefer to go about their business of the day and earn their daily income, than spend time in long lines during the election. This situation points to a low appreciation of their right to suffrage and a lack of interest to participate in the democratic process of the selection of national and local leaders.

The CDO-Mis.Or. Chapter of NAMFREL rose to the challenge to reach out and quite literally bring the VEP into the streets, where most of the masses are, representing a critical percentage of the voting population and would certainly influence the outcome of the voting results. NAMFREL Volunteers, mostly students, conducted market visits in the Carmen and Cogon Public Markets, visiting stall owners and distributing leaflets. Their placards held simple messages, such as "Choose the Right Candidates!", "No to Vote-Buying!" and also provided basic information, such as the time of voting, and reminders on the voting process. The market visit was closely coordinated with the City Philippine National Police, who monitored the security of the volunteers. There were several visits conducted by the young NAMFREL volunteers to Cogon and Carmen Public Markets.

The CDO-Mis.Or. Chapter also conducted regular education sessions with the students and with community partners. Voters' education sessions were conducted in Xavier University, Capitol University, Pilgrim Christian College and Lourdes University, among others. This was organized in partnership with the National Service Training Program Implementers, Kagayanon for Good Governance (KGG) Youth, and the Central Student Government Office per school. Community sessions were held at Tambo, Macasandig with the Nina Maria Learning Center through its community members.

NAMFREL CDO-Mis.Or. trained and prepared volunteers to facilitate and assist in these Voters' Education activities. The VEP is an important component in massively disseminating new rules



and procedures related to the automated polls.

The May 2013 Election was only the second time which the Philippines conducted automated polls. A significant part of the session was spent on explaining how the PCOS machine works, and what the voters need to know to properly vote and cast their ballots. The Voters' Education sessions also served as recruitment platform for the Chapter to invite more volunteers for mobile pollwatching on election day.

On Being a First-Time Voter

by Mai Arcano, BA Political Economy, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P)
NAMFREL Volunteer

A few days before the event, I made sure that my registration is valid and that I am eligible to vote for this year's elections. I also made other preparations such as searching for my precinct number, listening to senatorial debates, researching on candidate profiles, and a speck about knowing the voting procedure.

On the day of the elections, I woke up around 6:30am to ensure that I would be one of the first people in line. I brought my driver's license as my valid ID, a hand fan, tissue, and my phone to keep me entertained just in case the procedure starts to eat up my patience. In addition, I also wore clothes that were loose and comfortable.

As I was approaching the voting precinct, there was a group of people who were holding some pieces of paper, eagerly giving them away to the people who passed by as if they were distributors of condominium flyers that we often see in malls. As conspicuous as it is, it saddened and angered me greatly to see this. For one, this only proves how some political candidates would go overboard just to gather votes. I would not call this "determination" or "enthusiasm"; rather, I would refer to it as being greedy and incompetent. It also gave me a reason not to vote for these people, seeing how recalcitrant they are as citizens. Another thing that brought me dismay is the sight of how people could so easily trade their votes in exchange for financial supplication and/or empty promises. Contemplating about it, however, I understand that they are not to be entirely blamed for their actions given their situation. Nevertheless, I would say that they are still accountable to themselves and to authorities as well.

When I reached the polling precinct, the people were just all over the place. There was a small tent in front of the precinct entrance where people apparently searched for their precinct number. I almost joined the line thinking that it could be the first step for voting. Thankfully, I saved some time by asking the person in front of me regarding the purpose of the line. If only there was a sign or a guide to assist me and the other voters.

Inside the precinct, I saw several lines and lists of names. I barely knew where to look for my name and where exactly to line up. It was nice of the people in line to ask me what my precinct number is and to direct me to my line. Again, if only there were signs or assigned volunteers who could have guided me.

After a few minutes of standing and sweating in line, along with a few attempts of co-voters to convince me to vote for their supported candidates, I finally got a hold of my ballot. I was suddenly disappointed for another minute, seeing how the voters were seated in a round table composed of about four to six members with their unsecured ballots. Some might consider it an insignificant concern, but I do believe in the secrecy of the ballot. Even until I inserted the ballot in the PCOS machine, I used the folder provided to ensure that people could not see my votes. My ballot was rejected by the machine in my first attempt but it later accepted and counted my vote when I changed the side that I inserted.

Basically, the whole procedure took me about thirty minutes. Personally, I would say that it was not that traumatizing for a first-time voter but further improvements could definitely be made in order to make the process more efficient.

Thereafter casting my vote, I headed to the NAMFREL headquarters to "guard my vote". I have never been this



Mai (second from left) with other NAMFREL volunteers at the 2013 national operations center

involved in the elections and it surely is an unforgettable first-time experience that I would always be eager to share with other people.

Overall, I would still encourage the youth to register and vote no matter how much inconvenience this may cause them. Although as cliché as it may sound, I still believe that “every vote counts” and that it is important to “make your vote count”. To the elected officials and the potential candidates, I speak on behalf of the youth with the hope that you would give importance to the sanctity and security of the elections. In the recent SONA of the President, he mentioned that the May 2013 elections have been “peaceful and orderly” particularly in Mindanao. However, my experience of tabulating incident reports at NAMFREL would say otherwise. It is apparent to us that the Philippines and the system in this country is a work in progress, but we do hope that these concerns regarding the elections would really be given attention to.

It's Okay, SK?

by Veejay Calutan, BA Journalism, UP Diliman
NAMFREL Volunteer

Article 15 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, entitled, “Freedom of Association”, provides for the establishment of what we know today as Sangguniang Kabataan. The convention purposely strived for the right of the youth to organize and to be represented.

Sangguniang Kabataan traces back its history when then-president Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree 684 which provided for the creation of Kabataang Barangay, its predecessor. This Kabataang Barangay (KB) mandated the youth to participate in all government activities be it local or national for their development as future leaders of the country. The first national chairman of the KB was Imee Marcos, the daughter of Ferdinand Marcos.

Throughout the years, there were actually many significant changes that happened to the Kabataang Barangay. In 1986, there was a plan to abolish the KB and replace it instead with National Youth Commission (NYC). The Aquino government formed instead the Presidential Council for Youth Affairs (PCYA) but its mandate was limited compared to what other lawmakers envisioned for the NYC. The name Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) was formally established after youth representatives from Congress and PCYA worked together from 1988-1990.

Today, the SK still exists. The youth continues to be at the forefront of government activities that directly and indirectly benefit the people in their sector. The idea of establishing the SK was noble. It could be the training ground for the youth to hone their skills in different aspects. The former KB had a Youth Development Training Program that provided the youth better training other than in school. The SK greatly encourages the youth to participate in the government by informing them to register as voters. They also do some community affairs services which also serve as publicity for them. And most especially, they encourage their sector to participate in joining sports activities/tournaments or “liga”.

The projects of SK are evidently for the benefit of the youth. However, these projects need to be funded. But where do SK officials get their funds for the projects? There are only two answers. First, the SK officials' efforts to solicit in the community with little probability to get the actual funds for the project. Second is the SK officials' request for funds from a higher level, the Barangay. This now becomes problematic for the SK.

While most of us focus on the transparency and accountability of public officials, we usually forget to include those in lower positions. Some experts say that the SK becomes the training ground for corruption. This happens when the SK requests for funds from the Barangay, and the Barangay in turn request from the City council level an amount higher than what the SK has originally requested. But if the Barangay gives the actual amount to the SK, the SK may spend less or not at all. We can give them the benefit of the doubt.



Mga friends, reminder lang!



Open ngayong weekend ang mga local Comelec offices para sa mga gustong magpa-register para sa SK at barangay elections. Deadline na kaya sa Wednesday, pero we suggest gawin na natin habang maaga pa. Let's go na and register bago manood ng sine at gumimik.

Taralets!

Share mo 'to!



Registration for the Barangay and SK elections were conducted from July 22 to 31, 2013

The SK also becomes a breeding ground for political dynasties. This happens when Barangay or city/municipal officials endorse their sons or daughters for posts. Such was the case when Ferdinand Marcos made his daughter Imee head the Kabataang Barangay when it was established.

These two major problems are among the reasons why some of the youth want to abolish the SK. "It serves as training ground for corruption and political dynasty", said Dannielle Trinidad, a student-leader and UP Public Administration major. "The SK is a breeding ground for corruption. No impact in society", said Ervin Aroc, a Communication Arts major.

The keyword is corruption. Many of the youth are now more aware of government issues especially corruption, and are advocating for transparency and accountability.

And I, being in the youth sector, also want the Sangguniang Kabataan abolished. In our barangay, there has been no significant projects for youth development. It is only during basketball tournaments when teenagers are in their jerseys and shorts do the SK become visible. The SK has also become a popularity contest just like during high school student council elections. The one who has a name will win. The one with good looks, who dress fashionably during campaigns and speak like government officials will surely win. Poor are those candidates who will not win even though they have good leadership skills.

Understandably, current and former SK officials do not want the SK to be abolished. They all say that SK is a training ground for future leaders.

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