

Barangay and SK elections

Timeline of Activities

26- 27 October 2010

Reset elections on some villages

25 October 2010

Casting of votes from 7 a.m until 3 p.m. Canvassing follows.

Comelec Resolutions

Resolution No. 9082- In the matter of the recipient of the fourth copy of the election return (ER) for the barangay elections in the October 25 elections.

Resolution No. 9081- In the matter of requesting the honorable secretary of the DILG to authorize local/executives officials where Barangay and SK elections were postponed to declare holiday in such barangays in connection with the barangay and sk polls.

Resolution No. 9080- In the matter of designating election officers as duly authorized officials of the commission to approve requests to open ballot boxes for the sole purpose of retrieving copies of election returns which will be needed in the canvass.

Resolution No. 9079- Guidelines for the treasurers and Board of Election Tellers (BET) on official ballots bearing the same serial number 1 connection with the October 25 elections

Resolution No. 9078- Guidelines in case the official ballots, accountable election forms, and other election paraphernalia do not arrive on time for the opening of polls in connection with the October 25 elections.

Resolution No. 9077- In the matter of (1) suspending the proclamation of any winning candidate who is included in the list of multiple termers submitted by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) or who has a pending disqualification case based on Section 43 (B) of Republic Act No. 7160; and (2) promulgating rules and regulations on initiating petitions for disqualification, complaint for election offenses, and criminal charges against barangay officials who were elected and have served for three or more consecutive terms in office and filed their Certificates of Candidacy in the same positions

Source: www.comelec.gov.ph

National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)

Unit 601 DMG Center Domingo M.

Guevara St. corner Calbayog Ext.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1550

Website: www.namfrel.org.ph

Almost all barangay winner candidates already proclaimed

- The Comelec reported that 96.25 percent of 42,025 barangays in the country have already proclaimed their newly elected barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials. Some 2,252 barangays elected grassroots officials on October 26, while about 160 others conducted polls October 27. The remaining barangays which have not yet proclaimed winners in the polls might still be settling ties, especially in the positions of barangay and SK councilors. Section 240 of the Omnibus Election Code provides for the drawing of lots in case two or more candidates are tied with the highest number of votes, with the luck-favored candidate to be proclaimed winner. No pre-proclamation protests are allowed and no major sources of delays in proclamation are expected once the votes are counted, except for settling tied votes. The Comelec is still in the process of determining the voters' turnout during the recently concluded grassroots polls.

Since no pre- proclamation protests are allowed for candidates who would want to contest, the Comelec may consider improving the process of hearing post proclamation protests. It takes an average of two to three years to adjudicate these cases rendering the verdict moot since candidates would not serve the term they have earned.

Senators push amendments for Sangguniang Kabataan

- While there are bills proposing for the abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, has filed a bill seeking to lower the minimum age requirement for SK candidates to 12 years old. Senate Bill (SB) 1739 seeks to reduce the minimum age requirement for SK candidates from from 15 years old to 12 years old. The maximum age is 17. The bill likewise seeks to amend Section 329 of the Local Government Code and increase the allotment for the SK from the general fund of the barangay from 10 percent to 15 percent. It also seeks to create three committees to develop the spiritual, physical, and moral well-being of the youth. The proposed bill requires the punong barangay to supervise these committees and their activities. SB 1739 is a revised version of SB 1742 filed by former Senator Juan Flavio Velasco in the thirteenth Congress. At least four other bills concerning the SK system have been filed with the Senate for the fifteenth Congress. Sen. Francis Escudero, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., and Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri agree in reforming the SK instead of abolishment.

Two negating issues regarding the SK are now being faced by the Congress, abolition vs reformation. The government may consider educating the youth about the Sangguniang Kabataan system and its real role in development and governance. Thereafter, the government should have an independent survey consulting the youth regarding their involvement and now they are being affected by the SK governance. Any decision and move by the Congress regarding the SK will not only affect the youth sector but determine the quality of our future pool of local and national leaders.

Namfrel on the upcoming Myanmar election

- The November 7 parliamentary election in Burma (Myanmar) has been getting opposing opinions from both local and international organizations and governments even before the date of the election was announced by Myanmar's ruling military junta in August 2010.

Read Namfrel's notes on the upcoming election in Burma by following this link:

<http://bit.ly/bTOMN9>

[Sources: GMA News, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]

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