

Timeline of Activities

November 13- Special elections

November 30- All winning candidates in Barangay and SK elections shall be proclaimed
Source: www.comelec.gov.ph

Resolutions

Resolutions No. 9093- In the matter of the contingency procedures to be adopted as supplement to the General Instructions to the Board of canvassers in connection with the November 13 special elections in the province of Basilan, first legislative district of Bulacan and some areas of Lanao del Sur

Resolution No. 9090- General Instructions governing the consolidation, canvass and transmission of votes of the municipality and board of canvassers in connection with the Nov 13 special election

Resolution No. 9089- In the matter of the contingency procedures to be adopted as supplement of the General Instructions to the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI)

Resolution No. 9088- In the matter of adopting uniform procedures in the inventory, retrieval, sealing and delivery of ballot boxes involved in an election protest from the provincial and city treasurer's office to the Comelec head office.

Resolution No. 9087- Rules and regulations governing election campaign, propaganda, contributions and expenditures for the Nov. 13 special elections

Resolution No. 9085- Revised General Instructions for the BEI on the voting and counting in connection with the Nov. 13 special elections

Resolution No. 9084- Rules and procedures for the testing and sealing of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines in connection with the Nov 13, 2010 special elections

House Bill favors barangay officials

The Barangay Incentives Act (HB 317), proposed by Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas, would cover all barangay executives and employees, including tanods and members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa (barangay dispute mediator councils). The bill provides for the following tax-related privileges: exemption of their salaries, wages, and other emoluments, including allowances, and other "gross benefits received of whatever kind" from income taxation; exclusion from capital gains and transfer taxes when they sell any real property that they own, as long as the proceeds from the sale are used directly and exclusively to acquire a house and lot, not exceeding 500 square meters, for a family dwelling; exemption from national and local taxes and fees in connection with the transfer and registration of the new property in the name of the barangay official or employee; others are outlined by the bill include provisions for coverage and protection by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth) — including life insurance, retirement, disability, separation, and unemployment benefits; if the barangay officials and workers will be involved in administrative or criminal cases as they are carrying out their official duties, the bill proposes that they be entitled to representation by counsel, as assigned by the Public Attorney's Office.

Aside from benefits enumerated by the Local Government Code such as honorarium, Christmas bonus, insurance covering health, death and burial benefits, accident and disabilities, free medical care, matriculation fees of their legitimate and dependent children, civil service eligibility and the augmentation of LGU's 2011 budget, the bill will give again a favourable gain to barangay officials. However, Congress should assess whether or not they deserve such benefits through their performances. The Congress should also consider enacting laws empowering the barangay system and its people and not only their officials.

ANFREL: Pre-election activities in Myanmar are undemocratic and quite far from meeting international standards

Experts from the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) have expressed their strong disappointment in the Myanmar November 7th, 2010 Election which is being held through the use of force, fear and intimidation. People all over the country, including the media, have completely lost their freedom of expression and freedom of choice. Neither the poll preparation nor the election environment has reached the international standards that are basic principles of democracy.

The SPDC, former USDA, UEC and USDP should take responsibility for the failures of the pre-election period, failures which undermine the credibility and transparency of both the Polling Day and its electoral outcomes. UEC committees at all levels have failed to provide correct and comprehensive information to all stakeholders, especially voters. The examples of specific election commission negligence are many. For example, the UEC has taken no action against the Ward/Township Officials who campaign and show favor towards one specific party, threaten other parties, and convince the voters to take part in advance voting before it's scheduled. No secrecy has been provided for advance voting on the 4th and 5th of November and no one is aware of the procedures planned for the counting process. (Continue reading...<http://scr.bi/dxVEfV>)

[Sources: GMA Network, ANFREL data, NAMFREL data]