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

Philippine's automated election system as a world model?

At the Ninth Jaime V. Ongpin Annual Memorial Lecture on Public Service in Business and Government, the former Comelec chair, Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente) convener and NAMFREL National Council member Atty. Christian S. Monsod provided an assessment on the 2010 automated elections. Among the reactors was Commission on Elections (Comelec) Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal. He said that officials from many countries considered the Philippine automated election system during the May 10, 2010 elections as a model in their study case studies. Those countries included Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia and some countries in Europe. However, participants who attended the lecture showed disbelief in his statement.

On the other hand, NAMFREL Chairman Jose Cuisia said that NAMFREL pointed out 15 serious concerns that must be addressed before the country holds another automated elections. He said the electronic voting employed by Comelec and Smartmatic was "in serious need of review and remedial measures before it should be used for future elections." Concerns included the absence of a "full test of the canvassing system" and an "end-to-end run of the system from voting to canvassing at all levels. There were also concerns about the data security of the CF (compact flash) cards and data transmission procedures.

Atty. Monsod, in his lecture said that the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, the Comelec's citizen's arm, was also "useless" because it only encoded 53,000 ERs, "equivalent to a 69-percent accomplishment rate, the lowest in the history of unofficial parallel counts in the country." Auditability of the Smartmatic's machines was nonexistent. He also said that perennial "governance" problems also plagued the elections, including the late promulgation of guidelines, disenfranchisement from the voters' list, inadequate training, and delays in the delivery, or non-delivery, of election paraphernalia. Other problems he cited included "warlords, private armies, the disenfranchisement and low registration rate of overseas Filipino workers, the improper implementation of a flawed party-list system, and corruption." To read Monsod's report, follow this link at http://scr.bi/csVlz4

Burma election not free and fair; unrest looms

As expected, the November 7 parliamentary election in Burma was marred by fraud, eliciting condemnation from Burmese citizens and observers, election monitors, citizens in exile, Western governments, and the United Nations.

Burmese media outlet in-exile The Irrawaddy enumerated some of the types of irregularities and fraud that took place on election day; as reported by citizens, reporters, and observers under cover: ballot stuffing, lack of secrecy in voting, faulty voters' lists, unsealed or poorly secured ballot boxes, polling station officers' bias (telling voters to vote for candidates belonging to the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party — USDP), illegal campaign, party members serving as polling station officers, proxy voting, violence and intimidation. Citizens reported that local officials supporting USDP had been collecting advance votes prior to Election Day, threatening people that they would lose their jobs or source of livelihood if they do not vote for USDP. These officials also reportedly forced individuals to change their votes if they voted for the opposition. Candidates also reportedly ticked ballots themselves. (Continue reading... http://bit.ly/c8vYuK)

Comelec discussed AES with Mongolian electoral observers

On November 8 to 11, NAMFREL with the support of the Open Society Forum (OSF) served as the host organization of Mongolian electoral observers who had their seminar and study tour to learn about the Philippines' Automated Elections System (AES). Part of the program was to visit and courtesy call on November 9 with the Comelec Commissioners and discusses the election management body's function and automation process. The Comelec Commissioners and other officials presented the system of registration in the Philippines and the automated system used in the May 10, 2010 national and local elections. Questions were raised to Comelec officials regarding the AES and some election processes of the Philippines by the delegates led by the Commissioners of General Election Commission of Mongolia, journalists, and some representatives from local civil society organizations in Mongolia and a representative from OSF as well. On the following day, a Comelec representative demonstrated to the Mongolian delegates the actual Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines manufactured by Smartmatic. The participants were also able to try voting and testing the machine.

[Sources: Philippine Daily Inquirer, NAMFREL data]