



### **Barangay and SK elections**

#### **Timeline of Activities**

##### **25 September-10 November 2010**

COMELEC Resolution No. 9019, sets the election period to September 25, 2010 until November 10, 2010.

Carrying of deadly weapons and the use of bodyguards by candidates is prohibited.

##### **1- 13 October 2010**

Aspiring candidates for the Barangay and SK polls may file their Certificate of Candidacy (COC).

##### **14- 23 October 2010**

Candidates campaign period.

##### **18 October 2010**

Last day for filing of disqualification cases.

##### **25 October 2010**

Casting of votes from 7 a.m until 3 p.m.. The counting and canvassing of votes and the proclamation of winning candidates will immediately begin after the casting of votes.

#### **Comelec Resolution**

**Res. No. 9035** - Deputation of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement agencies for the purpose of ensuring free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible conduct of October 25, 2010 Barangay and SK elections.

**Res. No. 9034** - In the matter of Board of Election Tellers (BETs) whose registration records were inadvertently deactivated.

**Res. No. 9033** - Guidelines on the establishment and operation of COMELEC checkpoints in connection with the Barangay and SK elections.

#### **General Instruction for Board of Election Tellers already set**

- The Commission on Election (COMELEC) has issued the General Instruction (GI) Res. No. 9030 for the Board of Election Tellers (BETs) and Board of Canvassers (BoC). Like in the previous GI in 2007 Barangay and SK elections, the DepEd shall submit list of teachers that will act as BETs. Each candidate for the election may appoint two watchers to serve alternately in every polling place or canvassing center. Election hours is from 7am to 3pm on October 25. If the voter accidentally spoils or defaces a ballot, the chairman shall give the voter a second authenticated ballot after announcing its serial number and record it. As soon as the voting is finished, the BET shall publicly count in the polling place the votes cast and ascertain the results. At all times, the ballot box and all election documents and paraphernalia shall be within close view of the watchers and the public. The appreciation of ballots is also indicated in the GI. There shall be separate election returns for the Barangay and SK elections. After the counting of votes and announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, and before leaving the polling place, the BET shall issue Certificate of Votes (CEF No. 13) upon request of the candidates or their watchers. There shall be one (1) BBOC in each barangay to canvass the election returns for both the barangay and SK elections and thereafter proclaim the winning candidates.

#### **CMFR lauds Medias fail coverage in the 2010 polls**

- A study by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) conducted from February to May this year revealed that eight out of 10 (84.2 percent) news reports aired over broadcast stations ABS-CBN 2, GMA 7 and NBN 4 were "neutral" or presented both sides of a story. According to CMFR's monitoring of the media coverage of the 2010 polls, a big majority (64.6 percent) of news reports printed on the front pages of major broadsheets and reported over prime time news shows "provided background information on candidates." Print, broadcast and online media in the country showed "efforts to solicit the platforms and plans for governance" of candidates in the 2010 polls. But despite this, the media also committed several "lapses" in covering the 2010 polls. The media watchdog's study showed how television and newspaper reports focused on presidential frontrunners, which gave less airtime and space for candidates for other positions. Television reports also tended to give more attention to the conduct of the presidential campaigns and the preparations for the poll automation rather than the platforms of lesser known candidates. The CMFR likewise said that the party-list polls were "hardly covered," focusing only on the "controversial" groups such as Ang Ladlad and Ang Galing Pinoy. The media watchdog said that legislators should consider amending Republic Act 9006 or the Fair Election Act, since candidates this year found ways to "circumvent" some provisions in the law. The group also proposed greater focus on news on election spending, as well as on the party-list elections and the selection of their nominees. The CMFR also advised media organizations to "exercise care in airing reports circulating over the Internet," since these may be forms of black propaganda.

#### **NAMFREL participates in various CSOs Election Assessment Meetings**

- This week NAMFREL has been invited to provide inputs to various meetings and focus group discussion to assess the conduct of the May 2010 elections and a review of the Automated Election System (AES). Last September 20, the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) conducted a post-election assessment meeting in line with Comelec's selection of IFES to conduct a "full-scale" assessment of the recent elections. This would further enable Comelec to identify the mistakes done in the last elections (as previously pointed out by various local civil society groups and EMOs) and use the evaluation to improve the automated elections process if and when the technology is adopted in the succeeding polls.

On September 22, NAMFREL participated in a FGD conducted by the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente) on voters registration. Points discussed were on the issues relating to the current voters registration system, voters registration in an AES, and proposals for reform and amendment of the Voters Registration Law (RA no. 8189). The meeting concluded with participants committing to an action agenda among election monitoring organizations (EMOs), the Comelec, and Congress. Rapporteur for both meetings is IFES technology expert Michael Yard who would present the report to the Comelec, which will focus on voters' registration and post-election assessment.

From September 23 to 25, NAMFREL Ex-Com members took part in a stakeholder's summit on electoral reform conducted by the Consortium on Electoral Reform (CER). The assembly participants discussed prospects for electoral reform under the new administration, provided assessments by various EMOs on the May 2010 elections, and conducted a plenary on election modernization which tackled issues on the electorate, political parties, election administration, and election laws & rules.

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