

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.

18- 20 October- Inspection and verification of completeness of the Voters' Registration Records and sealing of the Book of Voters for each barangay and sangguniang kabataan precinct (Sec. 31, R.A. 8189)

20 October- Last day of posting the Computerized Voters' List (CVL) for purposes of the Synchronized Elections of Sangguniang Kabataan and Barangay Officials (Sec. 30, R.A. 8189 in relation to Sec. 28, R.A. 8436)

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. 9038 - Prohibition on the appointment of barangay officials as members of the Board of Election Tellers or as watcher of any socio-civic, religious, professional organization

Res. No. 9037 - Authority of the Commission on Elections to appoint, fill- up positions, and transfer or reassign its personnel

Res.No.9036 - Deputation of certain departments under the Executive Branch, Government Owned and Controlled Corporations and Financial Institutions.

SC compels COMELEC to disclose the source code

- The Supreme Court has granted the bid of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG) to compel the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to disclose the source codes for the Automated Election System (AES) technologies it used in the 2010 national and local elections. In its seven-page decision, the high court en banc, through Associate Justice Roberto A. Abad, said that the pertinent portion of Section 12 of RA 9369 is clear in that "once an AES technology is selected for implementation, the Commission shall promptly make the source code of that technology available and open to any interested political party or groups which may conduct their own review thereof." In granting the CENPEG petition, the SC said the elections have already been concluded and conditions for the non- disclosure of the source code are "already stale." The SC agreed with the argument of CENPEG that the source code should be disclosed "not only for compliance with the law, and the purpose thereof, but especially in the backdrop of numerous admissions of errors and claims of fraud." Associate Justice Roberto Abad penned the unanimous decision, which was promulgated on September 21 but released last Friday. Chief Justice Renato Corona concurred with the ruling, along with Senior Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Conchita Carpio-Morales, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Martin Villarama Jr., and Jose Perez. Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Antonio Eduardo Nachura, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Arturo Brion, and Jose Mendoza were on official leave. Justice Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno was on leave during the voting.

COMELEC tapping several agencies for the Barangay and SK elections

- The Commission on Elections is tapping six government agencies to serve as its deputies to ensure an orderly and peaceful conduct of the nationwide barangay elections next month. Among the agencies the Comelec has identified to perform specific duties during the polling on October 25 include the Department of Education, the Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Energy and the Department of Public Works and Highways. The Department of Transportation and Communication has been ordered to keep a close eye on the "use, rental and hiring" of transportation facilities by any candidate, political party and other groups engaged in the election campaign. It was also tasked to keep tabs on the amount paid by the parties for the use of these vehicles, according to the Comelec resolution no. 9036. The Comelec also delegated the DPWH to assist the election body in the confiscation of all unlawful election materials nationwide.

Afghanistan election updates

- Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC) Chairman Fazal Ahmad Manawi reports that the IEC has processed about 2,000 tamper-evident bags at the National Tally Center in Kabul containing polling center vote tallies, and of these 210 have been set aside for further inspection for potential problems. 66.7% of votes from Panjshir province have been recorded; 44.3% from Jowzjan province; 19.2% from Kapisa province; 19.2% from Parwan province; and 14.6% from Samangan province. The total number of votes recorded to date is 4,332,371 or about 47% of 9.2 million voters. After receiving results from all polling centers and stations, the commission will decide which polling center's ballot boxes need to be quarantined.

However, complaints to provincial election commissions have so far included video clips showing ballot stuffing; the strong-arming of election officials by candidates' agents; and even the handcuffing and detention of election workers. Many of the complaints have come from candidates and election officials, but were supported by Afghan and international election observers and diplomats. The fraud appeared to cut both for and against the government of President Hamid Karzai, much of it benefitting sometimes unsavory local power brokers. The Election Complaints Commission said Thursday that it had received more than 3,000 complaints since last Saturday's election. So far they have registered case files on nearly 1,800 of those complaints — 58 percent of which were considered serious enough to affect the outcome of the balloting. These may change in the course of investigations but that preliminary figure is high, election monitors said. The complaints are not evenly distributed and were markedly worse in 13 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. To follow NAMFREL in Afghanistan, visit www.namfrel.org.ph or <http://twitter.com/namfrel>

[Sources: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data]