

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS**  
Intramuros, Manila

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR  
ACCREDITATION AS CITIZENS' ARM OF  
THE COMELEC TO ASSIST IN THE  
CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS ON MAY 10,  
2010.**

NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT FOR FREE  
ELECTIONS (NAMFREL) AND CATHOLIC  
BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES  
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR SOCIAL ACTION  
- JUSTICE AND PEACE (CBCP-NASSA),

Co-Petitioners.

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**PETITION FOR ACCREDITATION**

Co-Petitioners, NATIONAL CITIZEN'S MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS ("NAMFREL") and the CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR SOCIAL ACTION – JUSTICE AND PEACE ("CBCP NASSA"), unto this Honorable Commission ("Commission"), hereby allege:

**NATURE OF THE PETITION**

1. Co-Petitioners, NAMFREL and the CBCP NASSA, are seeking for their joint accreditation, under the name "NAMFREL-CBCP NASSA", as a Citizen's Arm of the Commission in connection with the May 10, 2010 National and Local Elections, pursuant to Section 2(5) of Article IX (C) of the 1987 Constitution and Section 52(k) of the Omnibus Election Code, as amended and other election laws in connection with the May 10, 2010 National and Local Elections to perform, subject to the direct and immediate control of the Commission and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, the functions mentioned herein.

## **CO-PETITIONERS**

2. Co-Petitioners, together, constitute a broad-based non-partisan group or organization of volunteer citizens from the civic, youth, professional, educational, business, social services and labor sectors, who are known for their probity, impartiality and integrity with membership and capability to undertake a coordinated operation and activity to assist the Commission in the implementation of the provisions of the law relating to the coming May 10, 2010 national and local elections for the purpose of ensuring free, orderly and honest elections in the country. Among those organizations working under their umbrella are Rotary Watch (a national project by Philippine Rotary Clubs for Peace and Order), the Management Association of the Philippines, the Makati Business Club, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Bishop-Businessmen's Conference of the Philippines. A proposed roster of the leaders who will directly be involved and a proposed organizational chart is hereto attached as Annex "A" and made an integral part hereof.

## **CREDENTIALS OF CO-PETITIONERS**

3. NAMFREL has in the past spearheaded and organized the nationwide Operation Quick Count during the 1984 elections of the Batasang Pambansa, in the February 7, 1986 Presidential Elections, in the national plebiscite on the proposed constitution held on February 2, 1987, in the May 11, 1987 Congressional elections, in the January 19, 1988 local elections, in the regular elections held on May 11, 1992 in coordination with the Media Citizen's Quick Count, in the May 8, 1995 General Elections, in the September 9, 1996 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) elections, in the April 9, 1997 Kalookan Recall Elections, in the May 11, 1998 synchronized elections; in the April 15, 2000 Recall elections in Pasay City and Mercedes, Camarines Norte; in the May 12, 2000 Recall elections in Lucena City, Quezon; in the May 14, 2001 National and Local Elections; in the May 10, 2004 Presidential Elections, and the elections on May 14, 2007.

4. That in the past elections since the 1984 elections for the members of the Batasang Pambansa, in the February 7, 1986 Presidential Elections, in the national plebiscite on the proposed constitution which was held on February 2, 1987, in the May 11, 1987 Congressional election, in the January 19, 1988 local

elections, in the November 19, 1990 plebiscite on the Organic Act of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), in the plebiscite on the Organic Act of the Autonomous Region in the Cordilleras on January 30, 1990, in the first regular elections of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on February 17, 1990, in the May 11, 1992 General Elections as a support group under the Media Citizen's Quick Count (MCQC), in the May 8, 1995 General Elections, in the August 19 and 20, 1995 General Registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, in the September 9, 1996 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, in the April 9, 1997 Kalookan Recall Elections, the 1998 General Elections, in the April 15, 2000 Recall elections in Pasay City and Mercedes, Camarines Norte, and in the May 12, 2000 Recall elections in Lucena City, Quezon; in the May 14, 2001 National and Local Elections; in the May 10, 2004 and in the May 14, 2007 elections, co-petitioners singly or jointly consistently applied for all and was/were granted accreditation in all the aforesaid electoral exercises as Citizen's Arm of the Commission (except in the 1992 elections where it did not seek accreditation but was a provider of technical support to the Media-Citizens Quick Count, because the incumbent Comelec Chairman, Christian S. Monsod, had been a Chairman of Namfrel)).

5. NAMFREL is the pioneer in election monitoring. It started with the establishment of the Operations Registration Committee in 1957. In the 60's and early 70's, the Citizens National Electoral Assembly (CNEA) was organized by then Comelec Chairman Jaime Ferrer with Bishop Mariano Gaviola as chairman together with Jose Concepcion, Jr. of NAMFREL and Charito Planas as secretary general. NAMFREL's commitment to clean elections was best shown during the 1986 snap presidential elections with over 500,000 volunteers who offered their time, energy and even their lives, to preserve the sanctity of the ballot. To date, NAMFREL volunteers have worked as trainers, observer team members, election administrators and resource persons in 32 countries.

6. NAMFREL's involvement in the international electoral scene include invitations by the United Nations and UNDP to monitor elections in Cambodia, as well as receiving several nominations to the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize from notable organizations such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the International Human Rights Law Group, both based in Washington, D.C.

7. CBCP-NASSA is a wide Church network. It is the secretariat of the eighty five (85) Social Action Centers (SACs) spread all over the country. They are collectively known as the Social Action Network (SAN) with Parish and Basic Ecclesiastical Communities (BEC)-based volunteers and members. Automatically, the eighty five (85) Social Action Directors will serve as Provincial/City Chairman of the Vote Count.

8. CBCP-NASSA is headed by its National Director, Most Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo. It holds its principal office at No. 470 Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila.

9. CBCP-NASSA, like its co-petitioner, NAMFREL, has the capability to undertake a coordinated operation and activity to assist the Commission. Its strength rests in its well-placed structure and social machineries that lay claim to the organized and empowered communities in the grassroots, called the Basic Ecclesiastical Communities (BECs) and which have organizational expressions from the parish, down to the chapels and villages.

10. Since the creation of CBCP-NASSA in 1966, the members of its BECs and Social Action Center (SAC) staff, have been actively involved in election related activities though voter's education, poll monitoring and poll watching.

11. Petitioner had been equally and actively involved in quick count for the past national and local elections and like co-petitioner NAMFREL had regularly tapped its members and personnel to monitor the counting of votes and canvassing of election returns. In fact, the majority of the SAN members and volunteers were actually the workforce behind NAMFREL's Operation Quick Count.

### **COMMITMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF CO-PETITIONERS**

1. Co-Petitioners under the umbrella to be known as NAMFREL-CBCP-NASSA, shall submit to the direct and immediate control and supervision and comply with the orders of the Commission in the performance of functions and activities provided by law, and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign;

2. They shall strictly remain non-partisan and impartial during the election and election periods;

3. They are not supported by or under the influence of any foreign government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities; or of any foreigner, whether natural or juridical person, with respect to the performance of the role as citizens arm;

4. They shall not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any foreign government, or any of its agencies or instrumentalities; or from any foreigner, whether natural or juridical person in connection with their duty as citizens arm;

5. They do not seek to achieve its objectives, goals or program through violence and unlawful means, nor aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of a republican and democratic government; and

6. They undertake to police their ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or groups of persons who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of non-partisanship and impartiality.

### **P R A Y E R**

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed that NAMFREL-CBCP-NASSA, be accredited as a Citizens' Arm of the Commission for the May 10, 2010 national and local elections, and as such granted such authority as may be needed specifically to satisfactorily perform its functions, such as but not limited to:

(a) Organize, manage, operate, report publicly on from time to time, and be accountable for the conduct by NAMFREL-CBCP-NASSA of an (external or public) unofficial parallel count at the national and local levels, using, as may be provided free of charge to NAMFREL-CBCP-NASSA upon order(s) of the Commission, (1), pursuant to Sections 22 and 26 of R.A. No. 8436, as amended by Sections 19 and 21 of R.A. No. 9369, the 4<sup>th</sup> copy of the election returns and

certificates of canvass of votes for such precincts or cluster of precincts or areas using or under the Automated Election System (AES); and (2) the 7<sup>th</sup> copy of the manually prepared election returns AES and one of the four of the thirty certified print copies as provided under Section 27 of R.A. No. 7166, as last amended by Section 33 of R.A. No. 9369 for those not using or not under the AES;

(b) Act as the designated citizens arm to observe and to assist in the implementation of the random manual audit under Sec. 29 of R.A. 9369;

(c) Coordinate the activities of NGOs and private organizations that are interested in involving themselves in the elections for the purpose of ensuring free, clean, honest and fair conduct of the elections;

(d) Conduct training of its own volunteers, coordinate with other organizations, groups or individuals so as to hold joint training sessions using their respective training modules, disseminate from time to time relevant information to the public on the preparation for and the conduct of the national and local elections on May 10, 2010;

(e) Perform, within the parameters of the Constitution and the laws, such other functions, publicly and with utmost transparency, as the Commission may from time to time assign to "NAMFREL-CBCP-NASSA" as citizens arm.

Makati City for Manila, December 16, 2009.

**NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT  
FOR FREE ELECTIONS  
(NAMFREL)**

Room 208, First Capital Condominium  
Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

**CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE  
OF THE PHILIPPINES'  
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR  
SOCIAL ACTION – JUSTICE  
AND PEACE**

No. 470 Gen. Luna St.,  
Intramuros, Manila

By:

**ROMULO MABANTA BUENAVENTURA  
SAYOC & DE LOS ANGELES**

*Counsel for Co-Petitioners*  
30<sup>th</sup> Floor, Citibank Tower  
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

**RICARDO J. ROMULO**

IBP No. 764001 – 1/05/09 – Makati Chapter  
PTR No. 0005303 – 1/06/09 – Makati City  
Roll No. 14964

**REYNALDO G. GERONIMO**

IBP Lifetime No. 493366 – 12/28/99 – Pasig Chapter  
PTR No. 1569430 – 01/06/09 – Makati City  
Roll No. 22501

**EILEEN ROSARIO C. BATAK**

IBP No. 764006 – 01/05/09 – Makati Chapter  
PTR No. 1569408 – 01/06/09 – Manila IV  
Roll No. 39857

**VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION OF  
NON-FORUM SHOPPING**

We, **JOSE L. CUISIA, JR.** and **MOST REV. BRODERICK S. PABILLO, DD**, both of legal age, Filipinos and with office address at 470 Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila and at Room 208, First Capital Condominium, Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, after first being sworn according to law, hereby depose and state that:

1. We have caused the preparation and filing of the foregoing Petition for Accreditation, together with Annex "A" attached thereto;

2. We have read and understood the contents of the Petition. We confirm that the allegations therein are true and correct based on our own personal knowledge and on authentic records and documents in our possession;

3. We hereby certify that no similar action or proceeding involving the same issues and NAMFREL-CBCP has been filed before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or the different divisions thereof, or in any other court or agency;

4. To the best of our knowledge, no such similar action or proceeding is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or the different divisions thereof, or in any other court or tribunal. Should we thereafter learn that a similar proceeding has heretofore been initiated, we undertake to inform this Honorable Court thereof within five (5) days from such knowledge.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at Makati City.

**JOSE L. CUISIA, JR.**

**MOST REV. BRODERICK S. PABILLO, DD.**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)  
MAKATI CITY ) S.S.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, affiants exhibited to me their identifications:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Identification Nos.</i>	<i>Date/Place Issued</i>
Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.		
Most Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo, DD.		

Doc. No. \_\_\_\_\_;  
Page No. \_\_\_\_\_;  
Book No. \_\_\_\_\_;  
Series of 2009.



**NAMFREL Officers****ANNEX "A"**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
National Chairman:	Mr. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.
Vice-Chairman:	Senator Vicente T. Paterno
Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair:	Ms. Evelyn R. Singson
Membership Committee Chair:	Mr. Damaso G. Magbual
Projects Committee Chair:	Ms. Corazon H. Ignacio
Secretary General:	Mr. Eric Jude O. Alvia
Founding Chairman:	Mr. Jose S. Concepcion, Jr.
Senior Adviser:	Mr. Vicente R. Jayme

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS	
Ms. Maricor M. Akol	Mr. David L. Balangue (SGV & Co.)
Mrs. Corazon Dela Paz-Bernardo	Mr. Baltazar N. Endriga
Mr. Telibert C. Laoc	Atty. Christian S. Monsod
Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI	Atty. Ricardo J. Romulo
Sr. Luz Emmanuel Soriano, RA	Atty. Eusebio V. Tan (MAP)
Bishop Efraim M. Tendero (PCEC)	Ms. Maxine Tanya M. Hamada (YouthVote Philippines)
Mr. Virgilio P. Gerolaga	

**Organization**