Political rallies, meetings are subject of local ordinances, permits

- Any candidate, organization, individually or jointly with other aspirants, may hold peaceful political meetings, rallies or other similar activities during the campaign period, Oct. 14-23, 2010 relative to this year's Barangay/Sangguniang Kabataan Elections on October 25. Such activities, however, are subject to the requirements of local ordinances on the issuance of permits, pursuant to Commission on Election (Comelec) Resolution 9043. The candidate shall notify the election officer concerned of any public rally he intends to organize and hold in the barangay and within three (3) working days thereafter submit to the Election Officer a statement of expenses incurred in connection therewith. All applications for permits to hold public meetings, rallies and other political activities shall be filed with the authorized city or municipal official who shall acknowledge receipt, thereof, in writing. Immediately after its filing, the application shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the city hall or municipal building. Within two (2) days after the filing of an application for permit to hold public meetings, rallies or other political activities, the local authority concerned shall act in writing on said application. Any application not acted upon within two (2) days from the date of its filing shall be deemed approved. In acting on the application, the approving official shall give all candidates equal and fair opportunity as to date, time and place, to hold public political meetings or rallies. The need for local permits while meant to enforce order in the campaign might also near an ugly sides, incumbents might use this prerogative to their advantage.

Comelec alters procedures for barangay, SK elections

- The Comelec has altered the procedures for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on October 25 following the protest case filed by former senator Manuel Roxas II against Vice President Jejomar Binay. The Comelec issued a resolution ordering the separate listing of new voters and transferees from other polling precincts to keep intact all the records from the last May 10 elections. The Comelec also ordered the removal of voters that were included by the Election Registration Board (ERB) in the book of registered voters and placed them in separate folders. Under the process, the newly registered voters for the Oct. 25 elections would be included in the approved applications for registration/transfer of registration records in the corresponding precinct Book of Voters. Only those whose names or registration records are included in the Books of Voters are supposed to vote in the coming elections. The Comelec directed the election registration boards, election officers and election assistants to keep the Books of Voters used in the May 10, 2010 automated national and local elections intact in the offices of election officers until further orders by high court or the Presidential Election Tribunal hearing the electoral protest of Roxas.

NAMFREL-DOH Medicine Procurement Monitoring Updates

- Since the start of Phase 2 of the NAMFREL-Department of Health (DOH) Medicine procurement monitoring, a total of Php 12.7 million pesos of the total approved budget of the contract (ABC) for pharmaceutical products, hospital supplies and medical equipment have been successfully monitored by NAMFREL observer volunteers from August to September 2010. The observer monitoring reports were based on the three hospitals (Philippine Children’s Medical Center, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, & Rizal Medical Center) and one Center for Health Development (CHD) based in the National Capital Region (NCR). The bidding of the CHD for MIMAROPA (Region 4-A), conducted last September 15, 2010, was declared a failure, because the lone bidder did not submit original or at least a certified true copy of their bid documents. Monitoring reports are anticipated from the local team leaders to be forwarded this month to the project team secretariat for consolidation. For more updates on NAMFRELs medicine monitoring and procurement observation activities visit http://www.namfrel.com.ph/activities/specialprojects.htm

Sources: PIA News, Philippine Star, COMELEC data, NAMFREL data,