Comelec 70% ready for Barangay and SK polls

- Commission on Election (Comelec) Director Ferdinand Rafanan, head of the legal department said that the Comelec is now finalizing the set of winning election supply bidders that submitted their proposals on October 1. Noah Paper Mills won the bid for ballot papers. The Comelec allotted Php 158 million for ballot papers, while Noah’s winning bid was Php 95 million. Neutron Construction and Marketing Inc. is likely to get the contract for stamp pads used for fingerprinting, according to Rafanan. Neutron was the second lowest bidder to One Time Carbon (OTC), which was involved in the controversy over allegedly overpriced ballot folders in the May 10 election. OTC filed the lowest bid for the stamp pads but Rafanan said the company failed in the sample testing. NAMFREL has been invited to participate on Comelec different biddings as observers. (KZR)

Comelec drops OTC as stamp pads supplier for failure to meet requirement

- The Comelec has dropped the One-Time Carbon (OTC) Paper Supply Inc. as the supplier of the stamp pads to be used for the Oct. 25 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) polls. The company failed to comply with the requirement for the Php 15.6-million project. Atty. Ferdinand Rafanan, head of the Comelec’s Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) said that that a pad should produce 600 clear fingerprints, but the sample submitted by OTC only recorded slightly more than 500 fingerprints. The OTC was declared earlier as the company that offered the lowest calculated bid for the supply of the stamp pads, but because it failed to comply with the requirement, the project was given to the second lowest bidder, the Neutron Construction and Marketing Inc. Neutron, during the tests conducted on October 6, surpassed the required number of fingerprints per pad, when it produced 624 marks. The Comelec would need 520,000 pieces of stamp pad for the polls this month. It can be recalled that the OTC made the headlines prior to the May 10 polls when it produced 500 fingerprints. The OTC was involved in the controversy over allegedly overpriced ballot folders in the May 10 election. OTC filed the lowest bid for the stamp pads but Rafanan said the company failed in the sample testing. NAMFREL has been invited to participate on Comelec different biddings as observers. (KZR)

Namfrel concludes participation in the 2010 Afghanistan Wolesi Jirga election

- NAMFREL team members, including Senior Operations Associate Paolo B. Maligaya, were in Afghanistan as long-term election observers and capacity-building trainers for the September 2010 Wolesi Jirga (parliamentary) elections. Mr. Maligaya sums up Namfrel’s participation in the Namfrel blog (http://namfrel.wordpress.com/2010/10/08/namfrel-concludes-participation-in-the-2010-afghan-wolesi-jirga-election/). This is but the latest in Namfrel’s involvement in international elections. Since its inception in 1983, NAMFREL volunteers have worked as trainers, observer team members, election administrators and resource persons in 31 countries so far. NAMFREL volunteers have been directly involved in the creation of similar election monitoring organizations in some of these countries. (PBM)