Barangay tanods prohibited from engaging in partisan activities

- The Philippine National Police (PNP) warned barangay tanods (village watchmen) against acting as personal bodyguards of the candidates in the October 25 Barangay and SK elections. PNP spokesman Senior Superintendent Agrimero Cruz Jr. said that while the PNP needs the tanods to help secure villages, it will not tolerate watchmen engaging in partisan political activities. He said that moonlighting as a bodyguard for someone running in the election is prohibited. They will be checked and questioned at checkpoints if they are caught acting as bodyguards. Cruz said PNP chief Director General Raul Bacaalzo on October 10 ordered regional and provincial directors and chiefs of police to expand their checkpoint operations for the October 25 polls. This means expanding the checkpoints from main thoroughfares to village roads. Barangay tanods are local volunteers who have been deputized and received trainings under the auspices of the Barangay Captain of their barangay to carry out basic security functions in the community. As auxiliaries of PNP, they are expected to be fair, impartial and non-partisan in providing equal security service to people since they are vested with basic police functions and powers that include arrests, enforcement and implementation of laws and ordinances and maintaining the police post. (KZR)

Comelec Bidding on the Forwarding services for the Deployment of Accountable and Non-accountable forms, Supplies and Paraphernalia

- The Commission on Election (COMELEC) conducted a bidding on October 6, 2010 for the forwarding services for the deployment of accountable and non-accountable forms, supplies and paraphernalia. There were participating bidders namely Abotiz, ACE Logistics, Airspeed International, Argo International, Columbia Transport, Explorer, F2 Logistics, Fortune Brokerage, GRM International, Germain Enterprise, Ground Air Freight Forwarder, LBC Express, Ximex, RM Posadas, and ZIPP Cargo. Of the fifteen (15) forwarding companies that participated in the bidding, seven were concluded as ineligible by the committee. LBC Express had no technical specifications compliance statement; no bid security; no list of existing vehicles and their ORCR. RM Posadas had insufficient bid security. GRM International had no statement of compliance for the delivery schedule; Single Largest Contract (SLC) issue. Columbia International had no certification from a forwarding association; insufficient NFCC. F2 logistics had no audited financial statement. Ground Air Freight had no list of vehicles and Explorer had no Second Largest Contract. The rest were considered to have the Financial Component of their proposals evaluated by the Technical Working Group (TWG). One bidder, XIMEX Delivery express, was given conditional eligibility, since their SLC didn’t bear the exact amount of their agreement with Kawasaki Motors; they were given until October 8, 2010 to submit all the invoices in connection with their transaction with Kawasaki Motors. The eligible bidders were informed that announcements will be made as to their presentations and demonstrations (e.g. SMS and internet tracking), after the proposal has been declared as LCB. (EOA)

NAMFREL talks on the upcoming Barangay and SK Elections in “The Correspondents”

- As we approach the local village elections with two weeks remaining, the importance and relevance of the elections to ordinary citizens will be discussed in the weekly ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs investigative documentary show, “The Correspondents”. It will be featured in this week’s episode is NAMFREL’s views on the (1) role and the function of the barangay, barangay captains & councilors and sangguniang kabataan; (2) a discussion on the internal revenue allotment of the barangay (sources and use of barangay budget); (3) its fiscal administration; (4) corruption in the barangay; (5) what are the services that the community should expect from their barangay and barangay officials; and (6) what are the traits and skills needed to be a barangay leader. “The Correspondents” Barangay and SK election feature airs today October 12, 11:45 p.m. Tuesday night right after the news program “Bandila” with replays on the ANC cable channel. (EOA)