Elections in typhoon-hit areas not postponed

- The Commission on Elections (Comelec) decided on October 20 to push through with Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in areas of Cagayan, Isabela, Kalinga and Apayao that were badly hit by typhoon Juan. However, elections in the isolated towns of Maconacon, Divilican, and Palanan in Isabela are suspended since almost all infrastructure including school buildings were destroyed. October 25 elections in calamity areas and in areas where electricity has yet to be restored will be held earlier from 6am to 2pm instead of 7am to 3pm regular poll schedule. The Comelec warned candidates in the calamity areas that sanctions would be meted on candidates found sticking campaign materials on bags of relief goods.

People’s participation through reports is needed to identify the candidates who will use relief goods for their campaigning. Evidence submitted by citizens to the Comelec such as photos and videos proving campaigns during relief distributions can disqualify a candidate from running for a public office or imprisonment from one to six years for vote buying. The public is encouraged to take the initiative to file complaints against candidates who are found violating the election law. (KZR)

GMA 7 Unang Hirit tied up with NAMFREL for voters’ education

- GMA 7 morning program Unang Hirit has invited NAMFREL to be part of its program “Preparations for Barangay Elections 2010”. This is to educate the audience and viewers and provide information on what voters can do before, during and after the Barangay and SK Election Day. Unang Hirit host Ms. Susan Enriquez will interview a NAMFREL resource person during the show to be held in Commonwealth Elementary School, to give voters tips and guidelines on how to prepare for the upcoming October 25 polls. The Unang Hirit Barangay and SK election feature will be aired on October 2 between 5:15 am and 8am. This partnership will strengthen both parties’ initiative on its information drive for the Barangay and SK voters. (KZR)

The real functions of a Kagawad

- It is important that we choose carefully whom to vote for in the Barangay Council, as the job of a Barangay Kagawad is not easy. According to the Local Government Code, some of these responsibilities include mobilizing people’s participation in local government efforts, preparing barangay development plans based on local requirements, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national or local programs and projects, executing Barangay Ordinances, organizing forums and discussions concerning health, sanitation, education, drug abuse and security, and performing such other functions as may be provided by law. It is important therefore that we vote individuals who have the capability to handle these important tasks. (PBM)