PCOS machines to be used on November 13 Special Elections

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued Resolution No. 9084 mandating to adopt a paper-based Automated Election System (AES) for the November 13 Special Elections in the 1st Legislative District of Bulacan, Basilan province and some municipalities in Lanao del Sur. The Comelec decided to use the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines to count votes in areas with special elections to elect local officials initially scheduled on May 10. The period for testing and sealing the PCOS machines is at least three days before the November 13 special elections. After the election returns have been printed in eight copies, the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) shall conduct a manual verification of results. The BEIs will manually read and count the ballot and votes and compare these with the results electronically printed by the PCOS machine.

For the May 10, 2010 polls, the Comelec rejected the proposal of a manual parallel count which had the same procedures familiar to manual verification count that will be adopted on November 13. The Comelec realized the transparency of manually counting votes and ballots however it was ironic that they rejected it for the May 10 elections even if there were election monitoring organizations like NAMFREL which has conducted parallel count in previous elections who offered to do the task.

Comelec to submit report on delays in delivery of poll paraphernalia to Congress

The Comelec fact-finding committee reported that they met and spoke with the Packing and Sealing Committee (PSC) and the National Printing Office (NPO) personnel. The committee was given 15 working days to submit its findings before the Comelec en banc. The Comelec said the poll body will submit to the House Committee on Suffrage the report of the fact-finding committee on the delays in the delivery of election paraphernalia and supplies in the Oct. 25 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) polls.

On November 17, the fact finding committee is expected to submit the report. The report is expected to be as objective as possible to assuage skeptics that the Comelec may not incriminate itself if found liable. The report of the committee should also show who would be liable and recommend sanctions for the delays even if those found responsible are high officials of the Comelec.

ANFREL calls for the Myanmar UEC and SPDC to clarify and seriously investigate advance voting activities and counting process irregularities

The Asian Network For Free Elections (ANFREL) called attention to events during the November 7th & 8th’s counting activities that require clarification from the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and the Union Election Commission (UEC) of Myanmar to urgently clarify why the counting process was not made transparent to the public and the media beginning with the first advance voting period.

Even though the UEC did not make the official dates of advance voting widely known, it is true that there was an official advanced voting period on the 5th and 6th of November, unfortunately, many advance votes were taken outside of that official timeframe. The counting of ballots, including ballots from advance voting and oversea voting, has raised many questions that demand an answer.