450,000 teachers needed for polls

- The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said on October 18, 2010 that some 450,000 teachers would be needed to supervise the October 25 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) polls. Department of Education (DepEd) would provide a list of teachers who would be part of the Board of Election Tellers (BET). The Comelec is currently formulating the guidelines for BET members to observe during the election. Under Comelec Resolution 9019 or the Calendar of Activities related to the synchronized polls, the last day to constitute the members of the BET and the Board of Canvassers is on September 25. The poll body shall also have posted the computerized voter’s list by the same date. There will be some 150,000 clustered precincts for the upcoming elections. Each precinct will be manned by a BET chairman and two members. To avoid long lines of voters, the Comelec will limit to 400 the number of registered voters in a clustered precinct. A total of 675,402 and 1,005,790 voters have applied for registration for Barangay and SK polls, respectively. These registrants are currently being processed by the Comelec.

Military and police to implement security operations

- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be reactivating its Task Force-Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections (HOPE) to perform election-related duties in connection with next month's barangay (village) election. The task force will carry out functions similar to the ones they played in the recent presidential and local elections. Government forces secured the past elections by conducting security operations against armed groups that threatened the conduct of peaceful and orderly polls. Soldiers, along with policemen, escorted the transport of election paraphernalia. AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta could not immediately say when the task force will be re-activated, adding that they just held their coordinating meeting with the Commission on Elections on September 17, 2010. The PNP is poised to implement a 45-day nationwide security operation for the upcoming barangay election from September 25, 2010 to November 10, 2010.

Afghanistan election updates

- On the evening of Election Day (18 September), the Electoral Complaints Commission had received 126 officially registered written complaints at its Kabul Headquarter and as reported by its 34 Provincial Electoral Complaints Commissions (PECCs). In addition, some 300 complaints were made in person or by telephone at the PECCs and some 1,000 at the Kabul HQ. In terms of ECC Regulations, such complaints will not be considered by the ECC/PECCs unless filed in writing. Complaints were most frequent from Kabul, Nangahar, Paktika, Helmand, Urozgan, Baghlan and Balkh, with some provinces reporting no formal complaints at all. The allegations were generally similar to those reported earlier on Election Day: delayed opening of polling centers, intimidation and threats, ineligible individuals voting, misuse of voter registration cards, proxy voting, poor ink quality, and shortages of ballot papers. Some of these have been addressed in the media by the IEC and by the State security institutions. For further information please visit www.ecc.org.af. To follow NAMFREL election observer reports from Afghanistan visit www.namfrel.org.ph, http://twitter.com/namfrel, or blog site at www.wordpress.com/namfrel.

[Sources: Philippine Star, NAMFREL website]

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