Overpriced secrecy folder supplier is still a COMELEC bidder

- A paper company who bagged the “overpriced” P689.7 million contracts to provide secrecy folders in the May 2010 elections has not been blacklisted by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). The Caloocan-based OTC Paper Supply is one of the prospective bidders for election supplies and forms to be used in this year’s barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. The Office of the Ombudsman later recommended the filing of administrative and criminal charges against 2 OTC Paper Supply and 6 COMELEC officials in connection with the overpriced secrecy folder contract. The Ombudsman also ordered the 6-month suspension of the 6 COMELEC officials. Director Ferdinand Rafanan, COMELEC Bids and Awards Committee chairman, said OTC Paper Supply has not been blacklisted since the case on the overpriced secrecy folders remains pending before the Ombudsman. COMELEC Chairman Jose Melo said OTC Paper Supply could still bid and even win a supply contract with the poll body. The COMELEC will bid out contracts for accountable forms such as ballots, election returns, certificates of canvass, indelible ink and padlocks. Winners will be announced on October 4. All supplies must be delivered to COMELEC by October 13, in time for the elections on October 25.

- As of August 20, the COMELEC has registered 48,889,266 registered voters for barangay positions and 2,419,530 registered voters for the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Angelo Reyes disqualified as 1- UTAK representative

- On September 22, Voting 4-3, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc disqualified former Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes as the first nominee of party-list group 1-United Transport Koalisyon (1-UTAK). Comelec Chairman Jose Melo and Commissioners Rene Sarmiento, Gregorio Larrazabal and Lucenito Tagle voted to disqualify Reyes while Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrer, Armando Velasco and Elias Yusoph voted in favor of Reyes’s nomination. The commission en banc reversed the decision of the Comelec’s 2nd Division, which favored Reyes’s nomination as representative of the party-list group. In that decision, Ferrer and Yusoph outvoted Tagle. The new ruling is based on a motion of reconsideration filed by Juanito Ranjo. The 1-UTAK Board of Directors earlier withdrew its nomination of Reyes as its representative to the 15th Congress.

On the Good Governance side: NAMFREL pursuing medicine monitoring

- Since 2004, NAMFREL has successfully monitored over 1.7 billion pesos worth of procurement items and services in its program of medicine monitoring in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH). This aims in ensuring competitive and transparent public bidding, preventing fictitious and incomplete deliveries and ensuring timely dispatch of medicines to the intended recipient. DOH through former Secretary Manuel Dayrit a credit for NAMFREL because DOH has been three-time awardee of Philippine Anti- Graft and Corruption as the most sincere agency in fighting corruption through strict compliance of requirements of the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) and has been consistent in placing in the top three least corrupt government agencies in the past years by the SWS and Pulse Asia. This year, NAMFREL pursues its commitment on good governance and renewed its partnership with the DOH. Mr. Edgar Camenting and Mr. Eduard Torcuato will be the coordinator of this project together with some NAMFREL chapters and volunteers on 28 project sites that comprise 21 retained hospitals and 7 regional health offices.