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Report

on

Election Process Assessment

The Philippines

November 22 - December 3, 1986

For:

Agency for International Development

Program on Election Assistance

Grant No. OPR-0086-G-SS-5199-00

Submitted by:

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December 15, 1986



## ELECTION PROCESS ASSESSMENT

The Philippines

11/24/86 - 12/2/86

Eddie Mahe, Jr., and Ladonna Y. Lee of Eddie Mahe, Jr. & Associates, Inc. and John Brady of The Brady Group, Inc. traveled to the Philippines at the request of USAID under Grant OTR-0086-G-SS-5199-00 and at the official invitation of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and its Chairman, Ramon Felipe.

The trip had a three-fold purpose:

- 1) To provide an election process assessment,
- 2) To specifically analyze the proposed computerization of the voter registry,

both towards the goal of supporting free, fair and credible elections for the Philippines, and

- 3) To expand the data base on election processes worldwide in compliance with the AID election process project.

The election process assessment and the analysis of computerizing the voter registry were undertaken to provide USAID with the capability of assessing any official requests for assistance from the Government of the Philippines.

During the 10-day trip from November 22 to December 3, 1986, over 50 individuals were interviewed, including officials of Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the Government of the Philippines, Representatives of National Citizens Movement for

21

Election Process Assessment  
Page Two

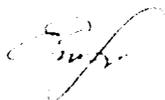
Free Elections (NAMFREL), and various others including USG personnel. Prior to departure, considerable research was undertaken including meeting with ten individuals with relevant Philippine experience in preparation for the trip.

At the initial briefing, USAID Deputy Director John Blackton and Ambassador Stephen Bosworth directed that the election assessment effort not unduly heighten the expectations of the Philippine election officials for election assistance, but to provide any technical advice and/or assistance requested.

Ambassador Bosworth counseled the team that U.S. election process assistance would be considered "where their needs meet our available resources" and that "it was not necessary to turn our appropriations process on end" to attempt to ensure a free and fair election.

COMELEC Chairman Ramon Felipe and former NAMFREL Chairman Christian Monsod both reported that Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin had told them that none of the currently designated U.S. aid was to be allocated to election assistance, and that any U.S. election assistance would have to be from additional appropriations.

Elections are not a new phenomena in the Philippines and thus knowledge of the basics of the election process exists. However, it was widely acknowledged by those directly involved in the election process that the responsibility of undertaking a



Election Process Assessment  
Page Three

total registration of 27 million voters on December 6-7 and 13-14, administering the plebescite on February 2 and the national elections on May 7, plus the local elections at a yet to be determined date would seriously challenge any election body.

Much of COMELEC's efforts to date have been directed towards ruling on various complaints, setting administrative policy, and preparing for the registration effort.

However, because of the lack of adequate lead time and professional staff, the registration effort was not flawless. Training at the provincial level was only completed on Wednesday, December 3, less than 4 days before registration began. Maps showing registration locations by precinct were not posted by Tuesday, December 2, at each town hall as required, and all the registration officials had not been selected. Thus, while there is a base knowledge of the process, the timely administration of the process is going to be a challenge for COMELEC.

It was not possible to complete a detailed election process assessment because COMELEC's efforts have been focused on the registration effort. The successful implementation of the simultaneous execution of overlapping elections will require a detailed operations plan.

All parties are very interested in achieving a computerized registry to comply with COMELEC Resolution 1805. Computerization would eliminate the majority of "flying voters," i.e., those



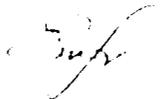
Election Process Assessment  
Page Four

registered to vote in multiple precincts. The computerization would identify fraudulent voters and through the publicity of the computerization effort many may be deterred from registering more than once. And, all agree that it is not possible to achieve the full computerization of approximately 27 million voters by the May elections.

Thus, an analysis of available resources to achieve partial computerization (4 to 12 million) on a targeted basis was undertaken. COMELEC has available 110 personal computers, a few of which could be used for voter list management, though adequate hard disk storage is not present. In addition, COMELEC officials suggested that the funds necessary for encoding the data could be found in the existing budget. The required software, which is relatively simple, can be developed locally. The present facilities, with minor modifications, can house required systems and personnel.

COMELEC commissioners and staff acknowledged the availability of computer capacity through private vendors and the government, but are reluctant to utilize these avenues.

It was determined that it is possible to achieve partial computerization by the May elections if a management plan is written and some oversight of its implementation is provided for, and if the computer hardware for storing and processing the files is made available thus assuring COMELEC the autonomy to control the voter registration files.



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**Election Process Assessment**  
**Page Five**

COMELEC Chairman Felipe requested advice on how these needs could be met.

The team suggested that the capacity to process the registration files could be provided by some additional hardware linked with the 110 COMELEC PCs. Such a configuration would then allow COMELEC the capability to expand the system after the May elections to fully computerize the registration lists as well as provide full internal operations computerization. COMELEC stated it would be their expectation to continue with the computerization after the 1987 elections.

There is a great supply of computer technical expertise in Manila. While the individuals with the responsibility of directing the computerization project within COMELEC and those involved from NAMFREL do have some computer background, they do not have the management experience for this size of project within the very difficult time constraints.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Eddie Mahe, Jr. & Associates, Inc. team to USAID that they be receptive to any COMELEC request for assistance that would provide the lacking computer storage capacity and management expertise.

If such a request is immediately acted upon, COMELEC would then have the capacity to eliminate potential fraud in the voter registration system, thus promoting free, fair and credible elections.

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Eddie Mahe, Jr. & Associates, Inc.



## TOTAL ELECTION PROCESS RECOMMENDATION

The Philippines

December 15, 1986

Basically, the election process system is in good shape. There is a residual of training and experience both with election officials and poll workers as well as within the general electorate. There are also some weaknesses existing, but none that would seem fatal. For example, for the registration effort the training process is very late and printed supporting materials are very marginal; some security aspects are weak as to material distribution and clearly there are weaknesses in the total planning process.

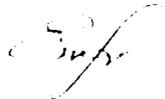
- To help assure the perception of fairness, every effort should be made by COMELEC to ensure that the opposition gets an equal share of media time to state their views opposing the Constitution. This is particularly important because of a memorandum that was sent by the government to the controlled media, which directed very specifically the points to be used in supporting the Constitution.
- Media resources and effort should be committed to the public education component -- the citizens were not adequately informed about the registration effort, which will ultimately impact the total turnout.

Total Election Process Recommendation  
Page Two

- An immediate decision to move forward with computerization of registration lists as outlined in USAID Recommendations (attached) keyed to limited goals in 1987 utilizing PC's supported by hard disks is necessary to comply with COMELEC Resolution 1805.
- In early March, one additional day of registration should be provided.
- Minimal time, attention or resources should be devoted to worrying about a "quick count," as that is of far greater relevance and concern in Presidential elections.

The next recommendation is based on an analysis of the attached advantages and disadvantages of the three alternatives for the timing of the 1987 national and local elections (attached). We treat this as a process recommendation because the timing of these elections will have a major impact on all aspects of the process from citizen participation, to security, to voting and tabulating, the sum total of which produces credible results that the citizens will accept.

- Hold a synchronized election for national and local elections in May if, and only if, the following system can be put in place.
- Utilize two separate ballots, one for local and one for national, which would then be deposited in separate

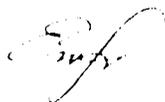


**Total Election Process Recommendation**  
**Page Three**

ballot boxes. The national ballot would have the names of all the candidates for Senate printed on it so that 'x' marks would suffice for casting the necessary 24 votes for Senate and then provide a place to write in the name of the Congressional choice (care would have to be exercised to assure that ballot design did not influence final Senate results, but this is a manageable task). The local ballots would be totally separate and would be as they have always been, with spaces provided to write in the names for each office. (This recommendation is necessary because the present system would require each voter writing in up to 50 names to cast their vote for both national and local offices.)

The mechanics of this process would be substantially unchanged, with perhaps a couple of exceptions:

- Set up more voting booths so more people could be voting at the same time (this would be desirable even if the process were set up so that the voter was given only one ballot at a time).
- Some modifications as to the counting process would be necessary, such as establishing the sequential order of the counting of the ballots and possibly separating the

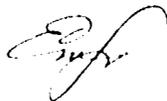


Total Election Process Recommendation  
Page Four

official workers into two teams supplemented by other  
official watchers.

These recommendations, together with a detailed election  
implementation plan, should enhance the capability of free, fair  
and credible elections.

10B.00555.122



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## TIMING OF LOCAL ELECTIONS

### The Philippines

The date for the local elections has not yet been set. President Aquino has stated that she will announce that date prior to the plebescite on February 2, 1987.

Three different scenarios are under consideration for the timing of the local elections:

- 1) Synchronized (same day) national and local elections. President Aquino is said to support this concept and her Political Affairs Minister Tony Cuenco has publicly supported the synchronization.
- 2) A two week or similar brief period between local and national elections. According to Ambassador Bosworth, the local elections might follow the national elections by two weeks.
- 3) A four month or more delay between national and local elections. COMELEC favors the local elections being held in November following the May elections.

The decision on timing of the local elections will impact all aspects of the election process. Therefore, following is a brief analysis of each of the three scenarios under consideration.

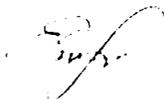
## SYNCHRONIZED (SAME DAY) NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

### Advantages:

- Reduces costs
- Expands candidate base because more offices are being contested on same ballot
- Increased number of votes cast in national elections
- Quickly gets the elections over and done with, resolving the OIC problem and allowing the country to start the much needed political healing process
- While nothing will eliminate it totally, this option should hold the cumulative violence to the minimum possible

### Disadvantages:

- Precludes losers in national elections from running for local office
- Unless separate ballots are used for national and local elections, which may not be possible, the voting, tabulating and resolving of challenges process may be so flawed that the results do not achieve sufficient credibility or acceptance
- Increased number of votes turned out by indigenous local organizations may weaken the Aquino national slate, particularly for Congress, and thus cause more stress
- Puts tremendous burden on COMELEC and the entire system
- Could require 90,000 additional ballot boxes



TWO WEEK OR SIMILAR BRIEF PERIOD  
BETWEEN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Advantages:

- Precludes losers in national elections from running for local office
- Makes entire voting process easier and faster including voting, tabulating and resolving challenges
- Quickly gets the election over and done with, resolving the OIC problem and allowing the country to start the much needed political healing process

Disadvantages:

- Provides no cooling off time after first election which would greatly heighten the potential for violence
- Requires the expenses of second election but some costs, such as training, would not be increased
- Would necessitate 90,000 more voting boxes
- If any logistical or credibility problems emerge in the first election, there is no time for recovery
- COMELEC is strongly opposed to this approach and will never believe in their own ability to manage two elections that close together



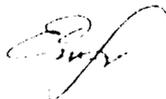
FOUR MONTH OR MORE DELAY  
BETWEEN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Advantages:

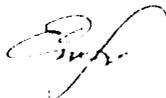
- Allows OIC's maximum opportunity to develop their own record and power base
- Provides adequate time for cooling off after first election
- Allows candidates who lost to run for local office
- Favored by COMELEC officials, as it will allow them more time to strengthen systems and safeguards before what will be the most competitive, potentially divisive elections
- By having separate elections, makes entire process easier and faster from voting to tabulating to resolving challenges
- No additional ballot boxes needed

Disadvantages:

- Doubles the cost, probably including the training needs and including printed materials
- Probably requires at least one additional registration day at considerable expense
- Undermines achieving national stability and consensus because of OIC's continuing in office for that much longer



- The last point may negatively impact both the turnout and the percentage voting yes in the plebescite
- Puts the country and populace through two potentially very divisive campaigns



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RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO  
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
FOR  
ELECTION PROCESS ASSISTANCE  
The Philippines  
December 15, 1986

The Government of the Philippines is in the process of holding elections to return the country to full democracy. A plebescite will be held on February 2, 1987, national elections (Senate and Congress) on May 7, 1987, and local elections on a date to be announced prior to the plebescite.

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is responsible for administering these elections and is in the process of putting the mechanism in place for free and fair elections.

However, because of the history of fraud and corruption in previous elections, COMELEC has been charged by President Aquino in Executive Order 50 to develop a new voter registry and COMELEC Resolution 1805 directed that the voter registration lists be computerized.

COMELEC, together with assistance from National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), has been studying a course of action for computerization. Although it is clear that some level of computerization would be highly desirable prior to the May elections, it is equally clear that that is unlikely to be accomplished without some outside catalyst for three reasons:

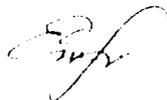
## Recommendations

Page Two

- There is a very low level of cooperation and goodwill now existing between COMELEC and NAMFREL, and thus no synergy to benefit the process, which might have been possible, utilizing their respective strengths.
- There is not sufficient expertise within COMELEC at this time to undertake the project and little likelihood that this will be corrected in any immediate time frame.
- No plan now exists for putting in place a computerization effort.

At the same time, though there are offsetting reasons as to why USAID should consider some level of involvement:

- The COMELEC Commissioners and staff are fully committed to initiating a computerization program.
- The total COMELEC budget is substantially adequate to pay the costs that will be incurred in computerizing and then maintaining the file.
- The involvement of USAID as the catalyst is probably necessary if any realistic effort is to be undertaken between now and May. And if none is undertaken, then the opposition may possibly be able to question both the process and the results.



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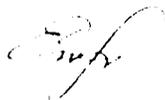
Recommendations  
Page Three

Therefore, it is the recommendation of Eddie Mahe, Jr. & Associates, Inc. for USAID to respond to requests for funding a two-step program designed to begin the process of computerization as fully outlined in the Brady memo (attached). The following recommendations would provide a catalyst so the project could move forward speedily, and the expertise so the effort would in fact be successful.

First, because of the weakness of the internal staff, the non-existence of any plan, and the friction between COMELEC and NAMFREL, assist in the creation of a systems/operating plan for the computerization project which could accomplish three things:

- a) Get something created that is critically needed and does not now exist; and
- b) Set up a respected entity to provide some interaction between the two groups;
- c) Establish the capacity to measure progress and the basis for some on-going management oversight.

The cost would probably be no more than \$20,000 U.S. Many groups could undertake the task and should receive consideration, including Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. (SGV). This group was recommended by John Blackton as a resource to utilize in the assessment and their credibility appears to be exceedingly high. Additionally, whoever prepares the plan should be able to provide



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Recommendations

Page Four

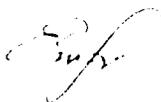
some on-going systems management, as SGV could, as such support will also be needed.

The second step would be to provide the storage capacity for the voter files as described in the Brady memo, which means the procurement process would have to work fast enough to assure delivery in Manila by mid-January, 1987, of whatever hardware was selected.

Should COMELEC submit an official proposal for USG consideration, USAID should consider providing these two items of support to stimulate the process if COMELEC will itself commit to three items:

- a) Initiate a program to computerize the voter registration files in targeted regions that gets underway immediately with the encoding of the voter registration forms.
- b) Commit to having a management/operations plan being written by some outside group and then to follow it; and
- c) Underwrite all necessary costs for this phase of the computerization project including output except for the disks and the plan.

From discussions with COMELEC it seems apparent they are in agreement and are currently pursuing this agenda.

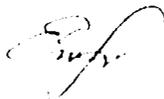


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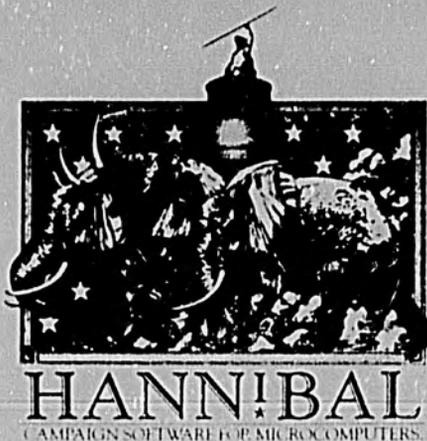
Recommendations  
Page Five

The cost of the three disks will be approximately \$110,000, and thus the total estimated cost would be \$130,000 U.S.

While there is no doubt that reasonably free and fair elections could be held without the computerization effort, the outcome will be seen as more credible if efforts have been undertaken to minimize the possibility of the flying voters that was so prevalent in the February 1986 elections.



Eddie Mahe, Jr. & Associates, Inc.



REPORT ON VOTER LIST COMPUTERIZATION  
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Submitted by:

John D. Brady, President

November 30, 1986

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Description of Operating Environment
- II. Review of Project Status
- III. Options for List Computerization
- IV. Rationale for Action
- V. Recommended Plan of Action

REPORT ON VOTER LIST COMPUTERIZATION  
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

I. Description of Operating Environment

The registration and electoral process in the Republic of the Philippines (RP) is a highly centralized one. Despite the involvement of regions and provinces in other aspects of government, the intermediate levels of government have a minimal role in the flow of registration and election data. Any proposal to computerize this data must recognize the functional necessity of centralized management of the data base. Distributed processing would be an extremely cumbersome, expensive, and unnecessary effort.

In addition, there has been no official COMELEC attempt to develop a computerized list of voters. There is virtually no data processing structure in place at COMELEC or any official election body of the RP. However, NAMFREL conducted a small pilot project in the 1986 snap elections which was very informative. A successful voter list computerization project must also recognize the need to develop COMELEC's internal data processing capability and supplement it with outside expertise.

On the other hand, there are very substantial resources available inside COMELEC, at affiliated agencies and within the private sector in Manila. These include approximately 110 IBM compatible personal computers presently in COMELEC's possession; P4,000,000 (\$200,000) or more for data encoding; staff; overhead expenses; impressive technical and systems expertise within Philippine business and industry; and a variety of data encoding vendors who could provide affordable data entry on a very large scale.

There is unanimous agreement by all interested parties that computerization of the entire national voter list (20-27 million) is well beyond the existing constraints of time, money, and available personnel. At the same time there is also unanimous agreement that partial computerization (from 4 to 12 million voters in targeted areas) is most worthwhile and would provide a variety of benefits to the registration and electoral process, and most critically, this is within the reach of available resources if the resources are mobilized quickly.

In summary, a successful registration and election process in the RP can be achieved without any computerization of the voter list. Yet there are many significant benefits of a partial computerization effort, which will be discussed below and in other parts of this report. Given the often stated desire by all

22

interested parties to implement some level of computerization, the availability of substantial resources within the RP to fund the project, and the numerous benefits of such computerization, it would be a wise investment of USAID funds to provide the catalyst and missing resources required to realize project success.

## II. Review of Project Status

A brief review of the various objectives and perceptions of COMELEC, NAMFREL, and the Philippine Computer Society (PCS) are below, as well as some conclusions with respect to the present status of the computerization project and likelihood of failure or success without outside assistance.

COMELEC -- All parties at COMELEC -- the commissioners, executive director, and data processing director -- specifically stated their desire to develop a computerized voter list. Chairman Felipe expressed in the presence of two other commissioners COMELEC's desire to implement as large a computerization program as their budget allowed. He had previously asked Rafael Cortez, COMELEC's data processing director, to gather estimates from local vendors for encoding, processing and production of a national voter list. After their internal review of the proposals, and our discussion of feasible alternatives, an estimate of P1.10 per voter was agreed upon as the likely cost of turnkey services provided by outside vendors. The Chairman and Commissioners specifically said that "funds could be found" to support a program of at least 4 million voters. At a later meeting with Rafael Cortez, he said that Chairman Felipe had asked him to identify specific funds within the COMELEC budget that could be used for data encoding beginning in early January. It is clear that a strong emotional commitment, and a likely financial commitment, to voter list computerization exists at COMELEC.

NAMFREL -- A subsequent meeting with Greg Atienza, NAMFREL Acting Secretary General, and Antonio Pardo, the Management and Information Systems Director of RPM, a Philippine corporation in the wholesale food business and a major contributor to NAMFREL, provided more specifics. Pardo is the second ranking member of the NAMFREL computer committee and chairman of the Philippine Computer Society's NAMFREL Elections Committee. Pardo possesses a great deal of technical and operational expertise, and clearly is the moving force behind NAMFREL's computer efforts to date. He was the architect of the "quick count" system as well as a pilot voter list development project in Makati during the 1986 snap elections.

Voter List Computerization  
Page Three

They both expressed the view that partial computerization of the voter list in the range of 4 to 12 million records was the best effort that could reasonably be expected given the severe time constraints and present lack of cooperation between the groups involved. They further stated that their attitude in the last two weeks had become less activist in the sense that they were now waiting for COMELEC to approach them for assistance, rather than continue to push NAMFREL/PCS help on COMELEC. They explained the results of the Makati test project, which discovered "large numbers" (nothing specific) of flying voters using very simple de-duping algorithms. After discussing the programming and data involved in the project, their belief that the software required for the project, even on the national basis, was very straight-forward and would be inexpensive to develop and maintain seemed quite valid.

PCS -- The Philippine Computer Society has a NAMFREL/Elections Committee to coordinate the volunteer efforts of the industry in the electoral process. While Pardo is a talented and energetic man, he seems to be an opinionated and independent force. As a result, the Committee, as such, is virtually non-existent and its role in list development will probably be minimal. However, NAMFREL can be expected to implement another "quick count" system.

The President of the PCS, Baltazar Endriqa, is a partner at the firm of Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. (SGV), a well respected accounting and management services firm with 4,000 employees in Asia. Two meetings were held with Endriqa and a partner, Jaime del Rosario, to discuss the computerization project. Endriqa has a clear understanding of the personalities and organizations involved, and expressed serious questions as to whether, under the present circumstances, any degree of success was likely. He strongly, and quite accurately believes that planning and management is the critical component now missing, and later indicated that SGV would be willing to undertake a central role in the planning and project management aspect. At the same time, he was very reluctant to initiate an effort to have SGV work with COMELEC.

CONCLUSIONS -- There is a great deal more data processing expertise and capability at NAMFREL, PCS, and SGV than was expected. Unfortunately, while all those parties, along with COMELEC, strongly believe in at least partial computerization of the voter list, tensions between the groups have prevented any progress to date. Without the catalyzing force of some outside party, it is unlikely proposals to computerize the voting list will be effectively undertaken in any significant way during this election cycle.

### III. Options for List Computerization

SYSTEMS -- Essentially three alternative system configurations exist. First, COMELEC could place complete responsibility for encoding, processing, and list production on outside vendors. This may be unwise for three reasons -- higher total cost due to inability to use existing COMELEC resources to minimize fixed costs of the project, lack of fallback system other than manual in case of inadequate vendor performance, and the lack of any lasting or residual value beyond the existence of the list.

Second, COMELEC could solicit the donation of hardware and expertise from outside organizations such as NAMFREL, PCS, or member companies of PCS. This option is not ideal in that there would most likely be no clearly identified project management responsibility which could be held accountable and organizational and personal tensions might well prevent this volunteer recruitment from happening in time to affect the 1987 elections. And finally, this solution would be an ad hoc answer which would not suffice, and most probably would require substantial additional development, for the 1988 barangay and 1992 national elections.

Third, COMELEC could implement the list computerization project in-house. This has the advantages of using existing COMELEC resources (110 PCs, staff, office space) to minimize additional fixed costs, allows centralized management with clear lines of authority and responsibility, provides the proper and most convenient repository for the voter data, and has the important added benefit of, in perception and reality, strengthening COMELEC, a critical government institution.

SCOPE -- See attached Exhibits for a description of the alternative levels, impacts, and budgets relating to in-house computerization of the voter list.

### IV. Rationale for Action

It is unlikely that without the proper assistance from USAID that there will be any significant computerization of the voter list in time to have a meaningful impact on the 1987 RP elections. Therefore, the rationale for USAID's prompt action consists of the benefits that this computerization could bring.

-25-

Voter List Computerization  
Page Five

First, computerization of the RP voter list will reduce if not eliminate flying voters in both perception and reality. The very fact that a complete re-registration is occurring will eliminate all of the flying voters previously registered. In reality, computerization will identify many of the flying voters that will register in December, 1986. It should also prevent election abuse if COMELEC will aggressively publicize the computerization process, threatening those caught registering as flying voters with prosecution. Combining these three effects will heighten the public perception of the impact of computerization and thus the credibility of the election results.

Second, computerization of the voter list will heighten the perception of legitimacy in the media and with the general public, providing additional credibility to the electoral results.

Third, in-house computerization of some part of the voter list will strengthen COMELEC as an institution, and focus the responsibility for the sanctity of the election on the government.

Finally, in-house computerization of the voter list will provide COMELEC with the capacity to effectively computerize the administrative and management functions it performs, increasing worker productivity and saving scarce resources.

V. Recommended Plan of Action

There are four ingredients not now present which are required for successful in-house computerization of the voter list: (1) an overall plan for undertaking the project; (2) management support; (3) adequate high-speed disk storage; and (4) a firm commitment of COMELEC to proceed on the project immediately.

First and most obviously, an operations plan is needed. But, of equal importance, all the key players must be involved and consulted in the creation of the plan. Because this task is so critical, it may well be essential that some outside group with considerable independent credibility, such as SGV, be utilized to develop this plan.

Optimally, the same group that generates the plan would also be able to provide some ongoing management consulting services to COMELEC in support of this project.

Voter List Computerization  
Page Six

The estimated total cost of both of these services should be in the range of \$20,000.

In addition, to provide the disk capacity required for a project of this size, the storage medium selected must interface to PC-DOS 2.0 and higher, address volumes of at least 1 Giga-byte, have average access times of 20ms or less, and be a proven and mature technology.

Three 1.2 Giga-byte high speed hard disks such as those available from U.S. Designs would satisfy the demands of this project. These hard disks are the only storage medium of which I am aware that combine the reliability, speed, and PC interface necessary to utilize COMELEC's existing PC's for the list management. Approximate cost, \$110,000.

With a total expenditure of \$130,000, USAID could be the catalyst required to bring the Philippine resources together to successfully computerize a meaningful segment of the national voter list.

EXHIBIT I

SCOPE OF COMPUTERIZATION OPTIONS

<u>Proposed Level (MM)</u>	<u>% OF ELECTORATE<sup>1</sup></u>		<u>ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST<sup>2</sup></u>	
	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>	<u>P Total (Record)</u>	<u>\$ Total (Record)<sup>3</sup></u>
4	20	15	5,000,000 (1.25)	250,000 (.063)
7	35	26	6,800,000 (0.97)	340,000 (.049)
12	60	44	9,800,000 (0.82)	490,000 (.041)

PRIORITIZED TARGET REGIONS BY PROPOSED LEVEL

<u>4 Million</u>	<u>7 Million</u>	<u>12 Million</u>
Metro Manila	National Capitol Region (NCR)	NCR Region 4 partial Region 3 partial Region 5 partial

1 Range of 20 million minimum and 27 million maximum.

2 Includes software development @ P200,000; Hard disk storage @ P2,200,000 (unless provided by an outside source); other hardware @ P200,000; Encoding @ P.60/record. Does not include general and administrative costs. Output, not included, estimated at P.20/record for four-part forms.

3 All conversions figured at P20 = \$1

EXHIBIT II

DISK STORAGE REQUIREMENTS  
(In Megabytes)

<u>Proposed Level (MM)</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>STORAGE REQUIREMENTS</u>	
		<u>Index/Working</u>	<u>Total</u>
4	540	648	1,593
7	945	1,134	2,079
12	1,620	1,944	3,564

Assumes 135 Bytes/Records for Data Files.

162 Bytes/Record for Index and Working Files.

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SCHEDULE SYNOPSIS

The Philippines

11/24/86 - 12/2/86

Monday 11/24/86

John Blackton, Beatrice Beyers - USAID

Stated policy that we discuss assistance only in terms of imagination matching realistic resources

Provide technical assistance/advice if asked

CCP stating that dollars to computerize not come out of aid already committed, that new dollars would need to be committed

A formal request for specific election assistance will be President Aquino to Ambassador Bosworth

Amb. Stephen Bosworth, DCM Philip Kaplan, POL  
John Yates, USAID John Blackton

Policy on election assistance where "their needs meet our resources"

"No need to turn our appropriations process on end" to ensure election

Concerns for plebescite - turnout and results

Local elections may be 15 days after national



Schedule Synopsis  
Page Two

Tuesday 11/25/86

Greg Atienza, Acting Secretary General, NAMFREL;  
Fred Sangalang, Region III Coordinator;  
Antonio Pardo, Quick Count Co-Chair 1986 and volunteer  
director of NAMFREL's computerization committee

Two major concerns:

- 1) Lack of publicity on the registration effort
- 2) Lack of faith in registrars; they believe 60% should be replaced

Suggests near total re-registration, 20-30 million,  
75% yes vote for plebescite and NAMFREL watchers at  
90% of polling places extremely optimistic

Discussed computerization goals  
(See computerization memo)

Edith Colver, The Asia Foundation

Spoke warmly of Weinstein and believes he will be able  
to bring in \$2 million funding for computerization

Discussed educational effort through comic books



Schedule Synopsis  
Page Three

Wednesday 11/26/86

COMELEC

Rafael Cortez - Computer systems director

Discussed computerization goals, resources and plans  
(See computerization memo)

Discussed concept of only computerizing Metro Manila  
pre May

Possibility of using leased/service bureaus or  
government computers

Ramon H. Felipe, Chairman and Commissioners  
Leopoldo L. Africa and Dario C. Ramas,  
and Executive Director, Vic de Lina

Discussed election process

Commission feels local elections should be in November  
- ballots by law must stay in boxes 60 to 90 days

Discussed problem of writing in up to 50 names on  
ballots

Voting machines discussed but not seen as practical

Discussed computerization of registration list (See memo)

Rivalry between COMELEC and NAMFREL apparent

Felipe stated he did not expect outside sources to  
provide 2 million dollars for computerization

John Forbes and Dick Holmes USEM, Beyers, Tony Cuenco,  
Minister of Political Affairs, and his deputies Euclio E. Borres  
and Manny Martinez

Tony charged by President with making synchronized  
elections (national and local on same day) 'work'

Problem of 50+ names to write in compounded by over  
60% of population never voted in 'real' election,  
20% illiteracy and 15 to 20% marginal literacy only



2/2

Schedule Synopsis  
Page Four

Wednesday 11/26/86 (Continued)

Cuenco asked for ideas on dealing with numerous candidates on one ballot. One idea discussed was 2 ballots - one national and one local with separate ballot boxes. Names of Senate candidates could be printed and then write in Congressional choice on one ballot. The local ballot would all be write-in. This system would reduce time in voting and make tabulation easier and less controversial - reduce debate over who the vote is for in Senate races caused by illegible writing or only last name being written in or whatever.

Discussed voting machines - agreed not practical now but local invention sounds plausible, particularly for multiple candidates

Discussed computerization of voters list

Discussed using 60 second Aquino radio and TV to boost voter registration



Thursday 11/27/86

Christian Monsod, former National Chair NAMFREL, Beyer

High disgruntlement with COMELEC

- forcing him to give up NAMFREL post because of ConCom
- NAMFREL willing to raise 40.5 million pesos for equipment and encoding for registration effort but COMELEC not willing to cooperate
- NAMFREL recommended 400 registrars to be dismissed, COMELEC not acting

Realistic assessment that NAMFREL will only cover 40 to 50% of polling places for registration and plebescite

50% or even somewhat less computerization by May elections acceptable

Stated that Finance Minister Onqpin had told him that \$2 million U.S. for election assistance not going to happen - if anything, less than \$200,000 would be forthcoming in his opinion for May elections

Aquino Movement Convention

7,000 in attendance

Many speeches - all day session

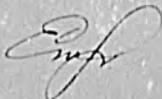
Andres Narvasa and Isaqani Cruz, Supreme Court Justices

Court only rules on election matters when grave abuses of power

Complaints to be heard in 90 days but office holder often out of office when heard

Do not like draft Constitution

Feels NAMFREL is partisan



34

Yutaka Iimura and Chihiro Atsumi  
Counselors Japanese Embassy

Problems with elections

- 1) Technical problems
- 2) No notion of impartial administration - Courts and NAMFREL seen as partisan

Signs of stability

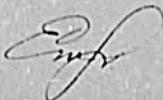
- 1) If Cory movement becomes a party
- 2) Plebescite wins over 60%
- 3) If Aquino wins local elections

Greg Atienza, Acting Secretary General, NAMFREL  
Antonio Pardo, Volunteer Director of NAMFREL  
Computerization Committee

Stated that full \$2,500,000 plan to computerize entire 27 million voter list was no longer realistic due to time constraints. Partial computerization still worthwhile if targeted in proper areas. Thought 4 million to 12 million was more realistic. Estimated \$207,000 would cover cost of computerizing 14% of the precincts.

Expressed dismay with COMELEC progress on list computerization, stated no longer willing to offer their services and support without a direct request from COMELEC. NAMFREL still plans on doing "quick count."

Concluded that if right pieces were in place and a realistic program developed, NAMFREL would assist in list computerization.



Schedule Synopsis  
Page Seven

Friday 11/28/86

Rose Yenko and Nona Javier, Evelio Javier Foundation

Their mission is training of candidates and public officials

Feel public education vis a vis democracy and vote selling inadequate. Adeneur Institute subsidizing effort through Asia Foundation

Believes public forums supported jointly by COMELEC and NAMFREL will be most effective campaign forums for May elections

Vic de Lima, Executive Director of COMELEC

Discussed plans, budget and training for plebescite and registration

NAMFREL wants COMELEC to act without due process regarding replacing registrars

Believes 30% of those eligible will not register in December, plans March registration period

Registration materials seized 'down south'

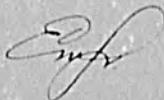
Discussed ballots, computerization, inking, observers, free media time for both parties re plebescite

Richard Gordon, former Mayor of Olongapo and  
Atty. Ellen M. Aquilar

Disgruntlement with Constitution and ratification process

Feels government machinery being utilized to influence plebescite

Need educational process to encourage people in provinces to exercise right to vote and not to sell votes



Pro Constitution Rally at Folk Arts Theater

6,000-7,000 people in attendance, mostly bused in  
(Embassy believes not from government sources)

Seating chart showed Urban Poor, Agrarian, Youth,  
Veterans, Professionals in attendance

No exuberancy for either Aquino or speech

She drew hard line referring to opposition in  
plebescite or May elections as "forces of evil"

'Babes' Guerra - Private Citizen and International  
Toastmasters Official - Husband works at Customs

Feels NAMFREL very partisan, wouldn't count Marcos  
votes and now many are leaders in Administration

Stated Lugar, Kennedy and Solarz were very partisan  
in determining election outcome

Upset about OIC appointments

Rafael Cortez, Computer Services Director, COMELEC

Stated that Ramon Felipe had asked him to find  
specific budget items which could be diverted to  
data encoding, to begin in early January. Felt  
data encoding would begin on schedule if COMELEC  
was convinced adequate hardware was available to  
process lists.

Indicated willingness to cooperate with outside  
help from any source.

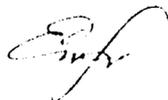
Baltazar Endriqa, Partner, SGV  
Jaime del Rosario, Partner, SGV

Expressed disappointment with all aspects of  
computerization project. Believes no realistic  
proposals had been presented, and no progress  
would be made until more achievable goals with  
a supporting operations plan were developed.  
Saw no acceptable plan being developed by either  
NAMFREL, Philippine Computer Society, or COMELEC.

Initially, displayed no interest in project  
participation. Later in meeting, stated that  
they would become active in project if proper  
framework was established.

Philippine Computer Society, Industry Group,  
Business Meeting

Informal conversation with various members. During the business meeting Pardo, as the director of the NAMFREL Computer Committee, was called on for a report regarding list computerization and he had nothing to report and talked only about the need for a quick count for the plebescite.



7/2

Saturday 11/29/86

Tour of Marinduque with Chris Monsod, Efren Danao, reporter of Philippine Star and Ricardo G. Nepomuceno, Jr., Legal Council to the Audit Commission plus significant discussions with Mayor Amapola Luna of Gasan and Bishop Lin during the trip.

NAMFREL's local chapters and the OIC's are being pushed real hard on the 'yes' vote campaign for the plebescite

The 80/80 campaign (80% turnout and 80% approval) is being advocated strongly in public. (The question of 80% of what as to turnout seems never to have been addressed, i.e., 80% of eligible or 80% of registered and if the latter what if only 50 to 60% or approximately 15 million register as some have speculated might be the case.)

Enthusiasm for the new Constitution is modest and questions are many, although this latter problem might be resolved when printed materials finally become available

As is almost universally the case, some too much discussion about the communists, the NDF, the cease fire, etc.

Ricardo will be a candidate for Congress in 1987  
Several expressed the opinion that vote selling was a phenomenon of the Marcos era because people realized their vote was meaningless but that next year this practice will be much less prevalent

NAMFREL Training Session  
Forbes Park Church, Makati  
Carina Lebron, Trainer  
Dick Cardenas, Area III Chairman

Approximately 42 volunteers in attendance - mostly middle aged women, 4 or 5 young people, 4 men

Trainer responsible for 4 sessions in that area, 2 completed and 2 to go, similar attendance rates

Expects to man all precincts during registration with 1 to 6 volunteers although only impacting less than 25% in training

No training materials yet available from NAMFREL

Two mistakes made in instructions

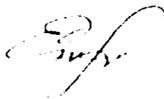
- 1) Indicated only thumbprints and not all 10 fingerprints required as is the case
- 2) Said four pictures required, which is not true

Told volunteers they cannot attend rallies in support of Constitution nor publicly state their position (contrast with Marinduque report)

Themes were: "Non Partisan" and "For Love of Country"

General and Linda Kanapi

This visit, while personal in nature, underscored the numerous stories that have appeared that the military is not yet comfortable with Mrs. Aquino and her approach to NPA and other communist groups.



Schedule Synopsis  
Page Twelve

Sunday 11/30/86

Pro Constitution rally sponsored by Coalition for  
Constitutional Approval

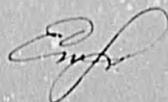
Projected crowds of 100-200,000 did not materialize.  
Large numbers bused in - probably 80 to 85% of those  
attending. Total crowd estimated upwards of 30,000.

Aquino did not appear, though it had been stated she  
would and preparations were in place for her to do so.

Baltazar Endriqa and Jaime del Rosario, SGV & Co.

Focused on operational needs for computerization of  
registration files

Discussed feelings within business community towards  
registration, plebescite, communist threat, etc.



Schedule Synopsis  
Page Thirteen

Monday 12/1/86

Marian Santos-Nash, Director, Philippine Office,  
May Department Stores & Coordinator of 1986 CBS  
projected count effort; and John Nash

Discussed "quick count" effort, its role in plebescite,  
impact of cultural differences in rural areas on  
election process; vote buying and process in general.

Dr. Gabriel U. Iglesias, Dean of Public Administration;  
Prof. Luzviminda G. Tancanqco, 1984-86 Election Study  
Director; and Researchers Tony Morales and Vicky Paez,  
University of the Philippines

Discussed studies now being completed on past elections

Development and role of citizens/civic groups in  
election process

Projected population figures and impact on registration  
process

Involvement of church

Blas Ople (cancelled due to his illness)

Jose S. Concepcion, Jr., Minister of Trade & Industry  
and past NAMFREL Chairman

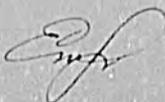
Discussed development of NAMFREL, necessity of non-  
partisan leadership and involvement of indigenous  
groups; need for survey early in process to understand  
people's attitudes

COMELEC's capacity to meet its responsibility

Impact and process of timing of elections (Concepcion  
suggested use of 2 ballots if synchronized)

Feels official U.S. observer team for national  
elections may give "the left" issue of interference  
as contrasted with some type of international team

Believes vote buying will continue to be prevalent  
with rural and urban poor



Schedule Synopsis  
Page Fourteen

Cecilio L. Chan, Director of Operations, Pacific Futures Development; Marlyn Anegeles, Deputy Supervisor, Trade & Industry; Chacha Angeles, Acting Director of Communication on Video Piracy & Intellectual Properties; and Ramon P. Ereneta, Jr. with Ministry of Trade & Industry

Assessment of educational effort on registration process and needs for citizen education for national elections



Eddie Mahe, Jr. & Associates, Inc.

43

Tuesday 12/2/86

NAMFREL Provincial Meeting  
San Fernando, Pompano

Fred Sanqalang, NAMFREL, Arnaldo T. Pangilinan,  
NAMFREL Region III Chairman, and Monsignor del Rosa,  
former Region III Chairman

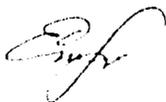
3 of 18 town chairmen were in attendance, a few  
volunteers and the local NEDA staff

Only 20 minutes of a 2-1/2 hour session were  
devoted to NAMFREL role in registration

Balance of session devoted to NAMFREL role in  
monitoring pornographic movies and bookstores and  
analysis of local NEDA projects, i.e., roads, bridges,  
etc., to determine any contractor corruption.

Extreme stress at local level towards involvement  
in these projects and feeling emphasis should  
continue to be on election oversight.

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44

A COVENANT TOWARDS PEACE

Beloved People of God:

Our country is undoubtedly at the crossroads of its history. As a people we are searching for peace, and looking for directions to raise us up from our situation of instability and poverty.

Not too long ago we asked you to follow and pray for the work of the Constitutional Commission appointed to draft a new Constitution for our country. The new draft Constitution was finished on October 15, 1986. Recent events have since shown how important for the stability of our country's political situation the ratification of this Constitution is.

We are aware of the imperfections of the draft Constitution. Therefore we realize that some will reject the draft while others will approve it. Many, at this point of time, may not have yet made their decision. Whatever decision is made by an individual, we urge that it be done on the basis of an informed and formed conscience. We respect the freedom of the individual conscience.

The formation of conscience will require study and consultation. For this reason it is our moral duty to study well, to discuss, and pray over the draft Constitution.

As pastors it is our duty to help in the formation of conscience of the Christian people. For this reason, we have studied and discussed the draft Constitution in its historical context and have arrived at a collegial decision.

We have read the draft's pro-life, pro-poor, pro-Filipino provisions that are consonant with authentic human values. But as pastors, we look beyond these human values and see them in the light of our faith. We have come to the conclusion that the provisions of the new draft Constitution are consistent with the teachings of the Gospel.

Therefore, we make known to you what we have arrived at collectively as pastors: We opt for the ratification of the 1986 draft Constitution. We express this stand, moreover, to assist you in the formation of your own conscience.

At this historical moment, many forces are striving mightily to destabilize what we have gained dramatically in February, 1986. We believe that this new Constitution will provide a firm basis for governance, a clear direction for national renewal and development, and a covenant towards peace.

Cast your vote in the coming February 2nd plebiscite so that you will have a hand in building the structure for peace which is the Constitution.

May Jesus, our Eucharistic King, and Mary his Mother, bless us all and continue to assist us in our common effort of forging our covenant towards peace.

For the Catholic Bishops'  
Conference of the Philippines

Sgd. Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, DD.  
President

City of Manila  
November 21, 1986.

- 45 -

## Ask people on tenure, Cory urged

THE PHILIPPINE Constitutional Association asked President Aquino yesterday to allow the people to decide whether they want her to be the country's president up to 1992.

In a letter, the Philconsa said that Mrs. Aquino should use her "extraordinary powers" as Chief Executive so that the people "in the forthcoming plebiscite on the proposed Constitution, shall vote on your tenure separately from the issue as to whether the charter should be ratified or not."

Speaking through its president, Dean Harold M. Bacungan, the Philconsa cited two reasons for its stand.

- There is a need that the ongoing discussions on the proposed Constitution be non-partisan, so that its merits or demerits shall be fully discussed. Right now, discussions on the proposed charter centers on whether the vote for it is a vote for Aquino.

- If the issue of the President's tenure is presented separately from the issue of the ratification or rejection of the proposed Constitution, the Filipino people will be able to clearly indicate their decision on her term.

BACUNGAN said that "if the people will ratify the provision on Mrs. Aquino's tenure separately and not as a rider in the proposed Constitution, this will erase once and for all any doubt about her being the duly chosen president."

This categorical confirmation of your electoral victory in the Feb. 7 election shall be the invulnerable foundation of our constitutional government," Bacungan said.

Hb

## Letters to the Editor

### Local elections

Practically all local elective officials have already been replaced by President Aquino with OICs, many of whom are political lameducks. And so, whether you like it or not, we are governed at present by political appointees who are not the people's choices.

Consequently, I strongly urge all elective local officials all over the country, whether KBL, NP or UNIDO, to band together and rally for early local elections. Let us utilize our resources to deliver our message loud and clear across the nation. And if this valid and reasonable request remains unheeded by President Aquino, who is ironically claimed recently before the US Congress that she always adheres to real democracy, let us show our disgust and resentment by campaigning hard for "NO" votes in the plebiscite. A president who prefers to engage in cheap politics instead of taking the necessary steps which would definitely give more stability to our government is very disappointing, to say the least.

This "NO" movement has become more relevant considering that the pro-Aquino drumbeaters have converted the forthcoming plebiscite into a clearly partisan political exercise by categorically declaring that a "YES" vote is a "Yes" for Cory, and consequently all local OICs, for their own personal and selfish interests, will support any move that will make their stay in power much longer and to hell with stability and democracy.

**ARTURO TOPACIO Jr.**  
Former provincial Board Member  
Province of Cavite

# Enrile stays home, will campaign for 'No'

By ANTERO F. SORIANO

FORMER Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has abandoned plans to go on vacation abroad but will instead embark on a nationwide barnstorming tour to campaign against the draft Constitution in his capacity as the new leader of the Nacionalista Party.

Close aides of the former defense chief yesterday said Enrile feels the need for an effective and credible opposition leader and will assume his new role to ensure the growth of a "true, democratic two-party system."

THE DECISION of Enrile to

campaign against the Charter was reported in Cebu City by former MP and NP regional coordinator for Central Visayas Ramon Durano III.

Durano, who earlier met with Enrile in Manila, said the former defense chief is expected to start his campaign against the draft Charter after 10 days.

Durano also said Enrile will assume the NP presidency in a few days.

ENRILE has accepted in principle the presidency of the NP, which was offered to him by the party's central committee headed by former MP Rafael Palmares.

The young Durano said Enrile "symbolizes the voice of the new opposition who will echo the people's cry against the present crop of neo tyrants, cronies and oligarchs."

Durano said the people may have lost a fighting defense minister with the relief of Enrile from the Cabinet, "but they have found a

new leader, who symbolizes the fight against the communists."

A SENIOR defense ministry official closely identified with former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday tendered his irrevocable resignation, saying "he could no longer serve the Aquino government."

Brig. Gen. Isidro Agunod (ret.), MND assistant minister for plans and programs, resigned apparently in protest over the dismissal of Enrile from his defense post.

# Pastoral letter urges 'yes'

## CBCP cites 'pro-Filipino' constitution

By DEEDEE SIYTANGCO

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) issued a pastoral letter yesterday urging Catholics to vote "yes" for the ratification of the draft 1986 constitution.

The Catholic bishops in the country, in their letter to their flock entitled "A Covenant for Peace," cited the charter as being "pro-life, pro-

poor, pro-Filipino."

The provisions of the draft constitution, said Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu, CBCP president, are in "consonance with authentic human values." As pastors, they looked at human values in light of the faith, and they concluded that the provisions of the draft charter are consistent

with the teachings of the gospel, he said.

"We opt for the ratification of the draft 1986 constitution. We express this stand, moreover, to assist you in the formation of your own conscience."

"At this historical moment, many forces are striving mightily to de-

*(Turn to page 12, col. 1)*

### PASTORAL

*(Cont'd from page 1)*

tabilize what we have gained dramatically in February, 1986. We believe that this new constitution will provide a firm basis for governance, a clear direction for national renewal and development, and a covenant towards peace," the letter said.

The faithful were urged to go out and vote in the plebiscite so they can have a hand in building the structure for peace in the country. The structure, the CBCP emphasized, is contained in the new constitution.

However, the CBCP admitted the "imperfections" of the new constitution. Vidal said

that some would approve of it, others would veto it. Whatever an individual voter's decision would be, the bishops urged that it be done on the basis of an "informed and formed conscience."

The freedom of the individual conscience is to be respected, the CBCP said. When the Church's pastors studied the draft, they did so according to its historical context and to help their flock to vote intelligently, the bishops said.

The CBCP letter supports the opinion of Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, who has urged the faithful to vote "yes" in the plebiscite.

In a dinner meeting with officers of the Quezon City Ladies Au-

iliary Corps at his Mandaluyong residence, Sin referred to President Aquino's removal of her defense minister as a "strategic decision," which is one of the two miracles after the EDSA revolution.

He said the first miracle was the transformation of Mrs. Aquino from a simple housewife into an international political figure. The second was her "decisiveness" in the Cabinet revamp when she asked for Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's resignation and immediately replaced him with Rafael Ilete.

The cardinal praised the "timing" of the decision. Asked if the President consulted him on her decision to replace Enrile, he flashed a smile, and said, "I can't

tell you."

With the CBCP stand and Sin's own position on the draft constitution, the Church might be accused of interfering in purely state matters, he was reminded.

"Of course, we have a separation of state and church," Sin said. "We don't use their funds, we do our own work..."

Asked if he had talked to the Enriles since his replacement, the cardinal said no, but he will soon call on them when "everything has cooled down." Sin had told the Straits Times in Singapore that Johnny and Cristina were friends of his.

At the meeting called to discuss the Dec. 15 evening mass at the Quezon Memorial Circle were Budget Minister Alberto Romulo and Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon, advisers of the Ladies Corps.

### Education

Constitutional Commission (Con Com) member Serafin Guingona said yesterday the new constitution should restore the position of the Philippines, defaulted by two decades of Marcos rule, as "Asia's most literate nation."

Addressing academic leaders in Metro Manila, Guingona cited provisions mandating the state to give "top budgetary priority" to developing "quality education" for the people.

Commissioner Jose Bengzon, talking to local officials in Lingayen, Pangasinan, said the draft charter would strengthen local governments by widening their powers of taxation, granting them a just share in national revenue and in the use and development of the national wealth within their areas.

Commissioner Blas F. Ople said the people are granted the power for the first time to amend the constitution directly by showing at least 12 percent of the national electorate support such amendment, under the charter's "power of initiative." Ople addressed yesterday members

of the Federation of Homeowners Association at Nichols Field who launched a campaign to ratify the constitution.

Commissioner Ricardo Romulo cited sections enshrining the partnership between workers and employers, in addressing public forum in Metro Manila.

They were among more than 30 members of the Constitutional Commission who fanned out to the provinces in the nationwide campaign to approve the charter in the Feb. 2 plebiscite.

Speaking before presidents of state colleges and regional directors of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports, Guingona said that for the first time the charter expressly mandates the right to quality education among basic human rights of the citizenry.

He referred to sections directing the state to provide free public secondary education, the tax-exemption of private schools, and grants and scholarships for qualified teachers and students among measures assuring the return of education as a primary concern of government.

### I M signatures

Ivar T. Gica, secretary general of the Progressive Alliance of Citizens for Democracy (PACD) headed by Natural Resources Minister Ernesto M. Maceda, said a campaign is in progress to collect as usual one million "yes" signatures for approval of the charter.

PACD President Pedro Hipolito Jr. announced the formation of a speakers bureau headed by former MLC Deputy Minister Rosendo Marquez for the charter campaign.

Regional speakers will be fielded in conjunction with the Con-Com's information committee and PACD barangay chapters will solicit the first one million endorsements before year's end, the PACD said.

Among those who attended the meeting were David A. Kulso, Antonio Gonzalez, Rodolfo Orasma, Maximiano de Trusman, Kuntali Abdugapal, Manuel Velazquez, Romeo Ventanilla, Leopoldo Ulandan, Romeo Barones, Antonio Brillantes, Antonio

Nuosa, Aurora Arrevalo, Chic Martinez, Maria Cabunza, Julian Tandingan, Eugenio Macababayao, Arthur Atiles, R. Vargas, Godofredo Leano, Pedro Marquez, Florencio Carandang, Erasto Orasco, and Serafino Magpayo.

### 'Yes' rally

OLONGAPO CITY — An estimated crowd of 30,000 rallied here yesterday behind President Aquino's call for a "yes" vote in the coming plebiscite.

The rallyists occupied the whole of Magway Drive, this city, and marched toward the Rizal triangle.

The group was led by Mayor Teddy Macapagal and members of the Banguniang Panlungsod. Col. Benjamin Aguilar, Olongapo Metrodivision commander, deployed PC troops along Magway Drive to ensure the security of the rallyists.

The placards they carried said "We will support President Aquino for Yes vote campaign" (Donato Kodolao).

### Campaign

The Samahang Nabuobos in Metro Manila will campaign for the ratification of the new constitution, it was announced by Col. (ret.) Alfredo Q. Obiero after the induction of the new officers of the association at the Army and Navy Club.

Inducted were Col. (Ret.) Alfredo Q. Obiero, president; Benjamin Beltrano and Pablo Zufiga, vice presidents; Dr. Gina B. Ocampo, secretary; Isidoro Z. Floriano, treasurer; Mrs. Yolanda Catton, assistant treasurer; Gregorio Beato and Pedro Belmonte, business managers; Cola Lorenzo Ballecer and Candido Fillo, auditors; Dr. Jose Prieta Jr. and lawyer Salvador Jugo, PRO; Col. Apolinar Oria and Francisco Nilayan, marshalls. The advisers are Prof. Teopisto Tjiam, Dr. Benhur Bales, Capt. Paulino Elevado Jr., and Honorato Coffon.

George B. Agregado, president of Pagiribang Bicolnon, guest speaker and inducting officer, urged the Nabuobos to remain united and to continue their support for President Aquino. He reminded the Nabuobos that the Bicolnon gave President Aquino the biggest majority during the last snap election and, therefore, must share with the burden in the difficult task of nation building.

Agregado also emphasized the need for all people to vote yes in the forthcoming plebiscite.

The ratification of the new constitution is our only instrument in ending the

...by authority of President Aquino.

The restraining order was issued by Judge Migrido based on a petition filed by Juan A. de Leon, who also claims to be the SEAFDEC-AQD chief. De Leon said his nomination as SEAFDEC-AQD chief was approved by Vice President Salvador Laurel who directed him (De Leon) to assume the position on Nov. 21, 1986.

The restraining order, which is good for 20 days pending the hearing on the petition for a preliminary mandatory injunction, also stopped Lacanilao from disbursing the funds of SEAFDEC-AQD and from using any of its facilities.

Lacanilao, however, refused to vacate his office saying that the court order does not direct him to turn over the position to De Leon.

"There is nothing in the order which requires me to turn over the office vehicles and other facilities to De Leon," Lacanilao told newsmen yesterday.

He said he had filed with the Supreme Court a petition for quo warranto in order to settle the question of the rightful occupant of the position of chief of SEAFDEC-AQD.

De Leon, on the other hand, insisted that he is the rightful chief, being the lone nominee to the position by the Philippine government.

He told newsmen in a separate press conference that he assumed the position in compliance with a directive issued by Laurel after the Philippine government terminated the services of Lacanilao as department chief effective Nov. 21.

## 7 opposition parties for 'no'

Seven opposition parties in coordination with civic, professional, religious, labor, youth, and militant groups will campaign for rejection of the draft constitution, reports said yesterday.

The seven political parties include the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), Nacionalista Party (NP), Liberal Party (LP) Kalaw wing, Mindanao Alliance, sectors of the Partido ng

*(Turn to page 13, col. 3)*

## OPPOSITION

*(Cont'd from page 1)*

Bayan (Pnb), Timawa Party of Western Visayas, and Pukyon Binaya of Central Visayas.

The Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) said it will coordinate its campaign with all other opposition groups. It has organized a coordinating committee, headed by former speaker and acting KBL president Nicanor Yniguez.

Until now, the Partido Nacionalista ng Pilipinas (PNP) has not yet declared its stand on the proposed charter, although it has announced it will launch a nationwide campaign to mobilize public pressure for President Aquino and Vice President Laurel to put their term in a separate question to the people.

Yniguez will be assisted in running the KBL coordinating committee by former Rizal governor Isidro Rodriguez, former member of parliament Salvador Britanico, former agrarian reform minister Conrado Estrella, former assemblyman Gerry Espina, and former Lanao del Sur Governor Ali Dimaporo.

Former assemblyman Frisco San Juan and former MP Vicente Cerilles were armed alternates to Rodriguez and Dimaporo, respectively.

Opposition leaders said the draft constitution was drawn up in violation of Mrs. Aquino's own commit-

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The placards they carried said "We will support President Aquino for Yes vote campaign." (Donato Kudela)

52

# We, the people

## Why yes to Charter?

IN THE welter of both private and public comments on the draft Constitution there appears to be an emerging acceptance of its integrity and worth -- at least in its general content.

Even distrustful opponents who publicly voice their anger over certain provisions which they find unacceptable sometimes concede in private that as a whole the 1986 Constitution may be significantly superior over all our previous charters.

For one thing, perhaps it is the only Constitution in the world that exudes with optimism and self-confidence repeated throughout in heightened concern.

Almost uniformly Constitutions in the democracies -- in fact, even those in communist and socialist states -- maintain identical repertoires of assurances and promises of liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness. But none of them promises food or even the barest economic security for the very poor who are very many.

In the 1986 Constitution assurances of food and shelter are enshrined with abundant securities

to fulfill them with the underprivileged specifically pinpointed as the special beneficiary of the country's bounty.

The small citizen, the poor, those who toil in the field just to provide for the barest needs of their families are listed high in the scale of priorities in the allocation of opportunities by the government.

The draft Charter also seeks to make possible health and social services available to all the people, again with emphasis on the poor, the elderly, the sick and the disabled, the women, and the children.

Above all else in its material promises, it seeks to free the people from poverty.

There are many other reasons why I will vote "YES" to the 1986 Constitution, but if only for its optimism and self-confidence which the country needs now and probably more so in the future, I will help campaign for its ratification.

HERN. P. ZENAROSA  
Former Chairman, Committee  
on Information Philippine  
Constitution Association

## DNA holds 'People's Congress,' rejects draft 1986 Constitution

THE Democratic National Alliance, which claims a membership of anti-imperialist organizations, holds what it calls a people's Congress today amid a campaign for the ratification of the draft constitution.

DNA chairman Rey Fajardo said the Congress, at a university in Metro Manila, was being held in honor of the man the organization described as the country's foremost symbol of anti-imperialist domination.

had earlier de-

clared the draft constitution, written by 47 commissioners appointed by President Aquino, as containing "clearly anti-Filipino and pro-imperialist provisions which make the draft unacceptable."

Organizers said the Congress was expected to be attended by 2,000 delegates representing the ranks of laborers, farmers, women, youth and students, urban poor, professionals, fishermen as well as other political and civic groups from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Fajardo said in a press release yesterday that DNA's rally at Liwasang Bonifacio which coincides with the Congress, would show that the Filipino people "are now fully aware of the power which they can exercise."

"From today, the era of the masses has started and that of the disoriented traditional politicians has ended," Fajardo said.

The DNA will symbolize the desire of the masses to free themselves from foreign domination, Fajardo added.

The DNA will also give honor to "recent victims of fascist imperialism" such as Rolando Olalla of KMU, DNA member Hermie Alvaran, and World War II heroes Manuel Joven, Juan Beleo, Crisanto Evangelista, and Agapito del Rosario.

At the same time, the Congress approved the continuing organization of DNA Chapters in all provinces and sectors even as it granted authority to the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) to undertake all activities.

## US Pinoys want plebiscite vote

OVER A MILLION Filipinos in the United States want to vote in the plebiscite on the proposed Constitution.

A foreign ministry spokesman yesterday said that communities in the US have sent petitions to Vice President and Foreign Minister Salvador H. Laurel through the Philippine embassy in Washington, D.C.

Laurel was not immediately avail-

### US ••(From Page 1)

able for comment, but the foreign ministry spokesman said that a special committee will be created to study the requests and make recommendations to President Aquino.

THE US-based Filipinos said that they should be allowed to vote in the plebiscite since they have always been active participants in the development of democratic processes of the country.

## Disabled people support Charter

VARIOUS organizations and movements involving disabled people yesterday expressed support for the ratification of the draft 1986 Constitution.

Tony Manikan, a blind man and spokesman of the movement called LINGAP, exhorted his fellow disabled to ratify the Charter, saying it is the only Constitution where four provisions are included for the benefit of disabled persons.

The New Constitution, written by a presidential-appointed commission, includes in its text sections on education, suffrage and social justice as well as human rights regarding the disabled.

Quoting World Health Organization statistics on the number of disabled in the population — totalling about 10 per cent — Manikan said these

was a fair chance at ratification if all the disabled united for a "yes vote" in the February plebiscite.

However, Manikan cautioned disabled persons from falling victims to politicians campaigning for a no vote.

"Let us set aside the qualms of politicians regarding some of the provisions in the New Constitution," he said.

Politicians have vested interests and tend to overlook the welfare of lowly people such as the disabled, Manikan said.

Meanwhile, the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons has also started a campaign for the ratification of the New Constitution.

It adds that there shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled women.

# Aquino rallies businessmen for 'Yes'

By MIGUEL C. GENOVEA

PRESIDENT Aquino called yesterday on the electorate to give a resounding "Yes" on the draft Constitution to remove, she said, the "damaging image of instability" being painted by critics of the administration.

In a speech before the Philippine Business Conference at the Philippine Plaza Hotel, Aquino said that while a simple majority will be enough to ratify the Constitution, a narrow victory "might embolden the enemies of the state to deny the country the peace it needs to

purge the work of reconstruction."

She said the new Constitution not only safeguards democracy and the freedoms won in the February revolution but also sets the direction for the Philippines to recover from the ruins inherited from the past administration and release the potential for progress.

"Let us now stop bickering and guessing about the future and instead go for it," she stressed. It was Mrs. Aquino's third

speech in two days urging the people to support the draft Charter on which she is staking the legitimacy of her rule and which is seen as a barometer of stability of the present government.

Later in the day, President Aquino addressed another rally launching a "Yes" vote at the Folk Arts Theater, saying that "we shall not let the enemies of Philippine freedom recreate conditions of uncertainty and instability in which

their evil designs can prosper."

She said those working for a "No" vote want to create a vacuum so that the forces of evil can rush again into our lives, destroy our hopes, and degrade our nation.

While approval of the constitution will not solve the country's problems, she said, "it will serve as the framework of the house democracy...and set the direction the nation must take...for progress and

(Please turn to Page 6)

## Aquino takes... (From Page 1)

justice."

TWO BIG rallies on the proposed Constitution will be held at the Liwasang Bonifacio today.

The Democratic National Alliance, a mass-based umbrella organization of militant groups, will hold a morning rally for a "No" vote. Chairman Rey Fajardo said that some 50,000 people are expected at Liwasang Bonifacio not only to honor the 123rd birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio but also to drum up support for the rejection of the Constitution.

Later in the afternoon, another rally under the auspices of the Coalition for the Constitution's Approval will also be held in the same place, with President Aquino as the guest of honor.

Agapito "Butz" Aquino, rally coordinator, said the participants will include BANDILA, the Liberal Party, PDP-Laban, Partidong Demokratikong Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, National Union of Christian Democrats, and the Federation of Free Workers.

### IN RELATED developments:

• Vicente Milora, Integrated Bar of the Philippines president, lauded JBP Luzon chapters for their joint resolution endorsing the approval of the Charter.

• Former Deputy Labor Minister Pablito Sanidad charged the Aquino administration with repeating the same vice of mobilizing the entire government machinery to ensure a "Yes" vote. He said the government's action is a repeat of the Marcos regime where he said the views of the people are secondary and the primary thing is to get the votes the administration wants "no matter the cost."

• The BAGUIN, a non-partisan organization campaigning for a "Yes" vote, organized its standing committees to further boost its campaign machinery. Naic, Cavite Mayor, Eduardo Echaz said yesterday.

SPEARHEADING the campaign that got underway last week in Southern Tagalog provinces and Metro Manila are Naic, Cavite Mayor Eduardo "Toots" Talag Echaz and former Dolores, Quezon Vice Mayor Cris Vilanueva, secretary-general and deputy secretary-general, respectively of the BAGUIN.

Also in the campaign are Dr. Roy Villazor for the professional sector; Manila Rotary Club director Leocadio De Asa for the business sector; medical director of the Philippine Youth Football Team Dr. Hector Fule for the youth and sports sector; cooperative leader Alfredo Sanchez for the cooperatives sector; Major Jovito Pabion for the veterans sector; Regelio Cristobal for the sector encompassing salesmen, and Mrs. Sonia Quiazon Dia for the women's chapter in Quezon City.

# Cory seeks massive 'yes'

President Aquino asked the electorate yesterday for an overwhelming "yes" vote for the new constitution "to remove a damaging image of instability in our country."

The President sounded this appeal in a speech before the Philippine Business Conference (PBC) at the Philippine Plaza.

In asking for a massive vote for the draft charter, Mrs. Aquino stressed that while a simple majority will be enough to ratify the constitution, a narrow victory will embolden the enemies of the state to deny the country the peace it needs to resume the work of reconstruction.

"The enemies of freedom, those who hanker after the privileges of dictatorship, who remain unsatisfied with what they were able to steal under the old order, will continue to conspire to topple our democracy," the President said.

She said that the instability is also caused by those who continue to hold back in giving their unqualified commitment to democracy.

She urged her audience, consisting of some 1,000 businessmen, to stop hedging and to go out and campaign vigorously for an overwhelming "yes" vote.

The President said the draft constitution has great merits as an in-

strument to protect democracy.

The President cited the division of power between the chief executive and the legislature as a "protection against the abuse of unilateral authority."

Enshrined in the charter, she said, is a strong provision in the Bill of Rights which "no authority regardless of its vast popularity or paked power can legitimately override."

(Turn to page 14, col. 5)

## CORY

(Cont'd from page 1)

The President said that in sum, the constitution assigns "energy to the executive, wisdom and control to the legislature, justice to the courts, integrity to the public servant, civic responsibility to the people, dynamism to the economy, equity to the poor, and dignity to all Filipinos under a democratic government of laws."

The constitution is not intended as the final solution to all the country's problems, she said. But approving the Constitution would mean accepting the challenge of human rights and public order, of economic growth and social justice, of public service and personal integrity, of citizenship and responsibility, of progress and permanent freedom," she added.

She said that the overwhelming approval of the charter and the establishment of enduring stability will mean the nation will lose the last excuse for failure, especially the work of reconstruction.

President Aquino, wearing a black and white suit, arrived at the meeting promptly at noon.

She was welcomed by Edgardo Espirito, 12 PBC chairman, and Aurelio Perquet, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Some 1,000 businessmen from all over the country attended the luncheon. It was the first national business conference under the Aquino administration.

Perquet said the pre-

sence of President Aquino during the last day of the conference showed the close relationship between the government and the business sector. He also announced that 100 percent of the PBC delegates support the ratification of the constitution.

Also present during the luncheon were Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin, Trade and Industry Minister Jose Conocon Jr., and Defense Minister Rafael Delo.

Delo's introduction was met with prolonged and enthusiastic applause from the audience, making the master of ceremonies, Felix K. Marambao, remark: "It seems the appointment of Minister Delo is very well received by the businessmen."

### More support

Filipino working overseas favor the new constitution mainly because its approval will allow them to vote abroad and signal the expansion of the country's foreign commerce, according to reports received at the Constitutional Commission (Con-Com).

Con-Com leaders, meanwhile, noted a marked increase in endorsements for the draft charter set off by widespread support for the Cabinet reorganization and other moves of President Aquino.

They said the campaign for ratification in the Feb 2 plebiscite was accelerated by the spread of the Coalition for Constitutional Approval in the provinces.

Rev. Gregorio Tingco, one of two Protestant pastors in the Con-Com, said

thousands of Filipinos in San Diego, Los Angeles, Memphis, Atlanta, and Detroit hailed Section 8 of the article on suffrage mandating Congress to "provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad."

Tingco reported to Con-Com President Cecilia Muñoz Palma on his three-week campaign on the new charter at the invitation of Filipino communities in the United States.

Lilia Calderon Clemente, whose \$2-billion international investment portfolio has made her one of the top financial figures of Wall Street, lauded the constitution as the "first magna carta that has adopted a basic global perspective to strengthen nationalist economic policies."

Clemente said she has clung to her Filipino citizenship despite 20 years of successful international financial activity.

From Saudi Arabia, Virgilio L. Villa, an officer of an international oil company in Riyadh, said President Aquino's brand of leadership and the ratification of the new charter have become the focal point of interest of Filipinos in the Middle East.

He reported a near-unanimous endorsement of the draft constitution to enable them to take part in the elections while being stationed abroad.

### In Bataan

Professional, non-participant groups and pro-Cory political leaders of Bataan have organized the

Coalition for Constitutional Approval (CCA) to campaign for an overwhelming "yes" vote for the charter and local support for President Aquino.

The organization of a CCA Bataan chapter was led by Agapito "Buts" Aquino, brother-in-law of the President and national chairman of the CCA movement. He was assisted by Emmanuel "Noli" Soriano, president of the Bandila.

Elected CCA Bataan chapter chairman was Felicitas "Tung" Payumo, president of Engineering Equipment and younger brother of alais mayor Jose Payumo Jr. of Dinalupihan, Bataan. Payumo was head of the professionals for Cory movement during the last snap presidential election.

58

# Cory followers stage 'Yes' rally

THOUSANDS of supporters of President Aquino, led by ranking government officials, held a rally yesterday for ratification of a new Constitution.

"Yes to Cory. Yes to Democracy, Yes to the Constitution," streamers, T-shirts and placards said at the rally at Rizal Park, where an estimated 20,000 people turned up.

Mrs. Aquino was scheduled to address the rally but did not turn up. Gen. Alfredo Lim, Western Police District chief said she was unable to attend because of rains, which also caused the crowd to dissipate.

MRS. AQUINO has staked the

legitimacy of her government, installed by a popular revolt in February, on the constitution's approval.

Her backers portrayed the Charter as the only alternative to rightist and leftist extremism.

## Related story on Page 3

Colorful Christmas lanterns strung across a park grandstand during the rally said: "Yes to the Constitution. No to Revolution."

THE RESULTS of a mock plebiscite conducted last week at a college in Metro Manila showed majority of its students and

teachers favor the ratification of the proposed 1986 Constitution.

The poll also indicated that 62 percent of the same group are in favor of giving President Aquino a full term until 1992.

The plebiscite, held by social science students of the Philippine Normal College, had a total of 1,640 participants. Of the total, 967 or 59 percent said they favored the draft Charter's ratification while 633 or 39 percent were against.

Those who were against, suggested either the return of the 1973 Constitution or the reversion of President Aquino's Freedom Con-

(Please turn to Page 3)

## Cory followers stage 'Yes'...

(From Page 1)

stitution.

MAJORITY of those who supported the Charter believed that its ratification will contribute to the country's political stability.

Those who voted "no" cited their dislike for the return of a bicameral legislature and the non-assertion of nationalist and democratic rights as shown by the "loose" provisions on the US bases and economic protectionism.

ON the question of President Aquino's six-year term, the survey

showed 62 percent or 1,005 voters favor granting her a full term while 580 or 35 percent are against. —

MEANWHILE, Sultan Amirullah S. Mangelen, the supreme head of the Amirul Din Al-Phil. Inc., yesterday expressed support for the government of President Aquino and the ratification of the draft 1986 Constitution.

He said he will lead his followers in the South in the drive to get a "Yes" vote on the draft Charter, which he said is crucial to national stability.

Mangelen also called on the Aquino government to finalize a peace agreement with the Muslim rebels as a means of achieving lasting peace in Mindanao.

## 20,000 rally for charter

About 20,000 people trooped to the Rizal Park yesterday for the launching of the nationwide campaign for the charter by coalition for the Constitution's approval. Butz Aquino of Bandila, who spearheaded the coalition, said the ratification of the charter would be a decisive factor in reestablishing constitutional democracy and restoring political stability.

The other organizations represented in the coalition were the Federation of Free Workers, Labor Party (Sulongang Watawat), National Union of Christian Democrats headed by former Sen. Raul Manglapus, PDP Laban and the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas.

Acting mayors of Metro Manila towns and cities also sent delegations to the rally with Navotas marshalling about 120 jeeploads.

Bataan sent 12 busloads of delegates, all in yellow uniforms.

In his speech, Manglapus,

Turn to Page 6

## Rally for yes votes

From page 1

paid tribute to the elimination of party inspectors in the electoral process.

He recalled that when he ran under the banner of the Progressive Party of the Philippines, many people who wanted to vote for him did not do so for fear that their votes would not be counted because PPP had no inspectors.

"Now, even new parties stand a good chance because votes for them would be counted," he stressed.

In another development, Comelec Chairman Ramon M. Felipe Jr. rejected last Saturday the demand of former Comelec Chairman Vicente Santiago Jr. that he be paid P342,620 in terminal leave benefits. The Comelec approved only P241,440, less of the excess payments of P228,000, reportedly made on Santiago's retirement gratuity.

Felipe also struck an earlier remark that Santiago remains accountable for a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver which should be returned to the poll body.

In a letter to Felipe dated Nov. 19, Santiago said he retained the revolver "by virtue of a waiver allowing retiring Comelec officials to do so."

# DNA hits 'inimical' charter provisions

THE DEMOCRATIC Nationalist Alliance, a multi-sectoral alliance of nationalist and anti-imperialist organizations, yesterday branded the proposed Constitution as "inimical to national interest in many of its vital and crucial provisions."

The DNA, however, did not adopt an official stand for the rejection of the draft Charter and left its members free to decide on the issue guided by the views expressed by the organization.

In a resolution passed during its founding congress, the DNA draft Constitution violates many provi-

sions of the DNA declaration of principles such as those pertaining to the economy, foreign military bases, land reform, education and culture and system of government.

Congress participants noted that their national preparatory committee, after exhaustive studies and deliberations on the draft Charter, found it "unacceptable in many of the basic provisions necessary for the promotion of a nationalist way of life."

...  
FORMER Constitutional Convention delegate Rey T. Fajardo, DNA chairman, said the founding congress dif-

fered from all other political conventions witnessed by Filipinos in the sense that "DNA leaders merely guide our members, who make all the decisions directly in true democratic style."

Some 2,000 delegates also passed a resolution authorizing the organization's national preparatory committee to evaluate the formulate policies, after consultation with members, to guide their participation in the projected electoral exercises should the draft Charter be ratified.

Other resolutions passed were those adopting the manner and strategy for continuing nationwide organization, drafting its program of government and its stand on peace. —FVM

## 'Independents' not supporting draft Charter

FORMER members of Parliament yesterday denied reports that members of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan's so-called "Group of Independents" voted to support the draft Constitution.

The former KBL solons composed of Wenceslao Lagumbay, Artemio Mate, Alberto Veloso, Vicente Cerilles, Constantino Navarro, Emilio Melgazo, Guardson Lood, and Adelino Sitoy said the "report was maliciously fabricated.

"It was sown to inflict further intrigues in the futile efforts of detractors to divide the KBL into failure in its relentless endeavors for consti-

tutionalism, the rule of law and true democracy," the former solons said in a joint press statement.

They said they "categorically reject the ratification of the proposed charter which was formulated in stark violation of Mrs. Aquino's own commitment to govern by consultation and not by dictation.

"The circumstances under which the proposed charter was drafted, the mere appointment and nonelection of Constitutional Commission members, and its inclusion of controversial provisions very strongly mili-

tate against its ratification," the former solons said.

They particularly underscored the proposed Charter's transitory provision granting a six-year term to Mrs. Aquino and former Sen. Salvador Laurel as one of its most objectionable provisions.

"As the genuine representatives of the people, most of the former members of the Batasang Pambansa cannot in conscience support the ratification of the proposed charter primarily drafted to legitimize the revolutionary Aquino government," the former solons said.

# Tolentino, Adaza go to bat for 'No'

**FORMER MP** Homobono Adaza called yesterday on the electorate to vote "No for the Filipino" in the coming plebiscite because, he said, ratification of a basically faulty draft Constitution would only bring disorder and chaos.

He told the Rotary Club of University District that the proposed Constitution is "shot through with fundamental imperfections" and its ratification will be more of a problem than a solution to present difficulties.

He also described a provision in the transitory provision granting a six-year term to both President Aquino and Vice President Salvador Laurel as "an election without

By **MIGUEL C. GENOVEA**

an opponent."

To put to rest the issue of legitimacy of the present leadership, Adaza urged that a presidential election be held after the plebiscite.

**FORMER Sen. Arturo M. Tolentino**, speaking before UP students, urged a "No" vote as he asked that the people vote "with reason instead of prejudice and be guided by principle and not personalities" in the plebiscite.

"While there are certainly good provisions, like the precautions against martial law, the objection-

able provisions outweigh the meritorious ones," Tolentino said.

Tolentino said that regardless of the performance of Mrs. Aquino, the provision allowing her to remain in office until 1992 without facing election "is objectionable in principle."

He said former President Marcos remained in power after his term had expired by means of a similar transitory provision in the 1973 Constitution.

"This was wrong and objectionable with respect to Marcos; it is still wrong and objectionable as to Aquino or anyone else," Tolentino

(Please turn to Page 6)

## Tolentino, Adaza... (From Page 1)

said

**COMMISSIONER Willindo Villacorta**, in a kick-off ceremony for the ratification campaign in Region VIII at the Divine Word University in Tacloban City, said the people elected Aquino for a six-year term in the last elections and the provision in the Constitution only serves "to affirm that historical fact."

Villacorta said the legality and legitimacy of the present leadership and government had been further reinforced by the people's revolution and the recognition extended by the world community.

**IN URGING** the people to vote "No" in the plebiscite, Adaza cited what he said were six main objectionable features of the Constitution:

- It is written in a vague, confused and contradictory manner and styled in unconstitutional language.

- It fails to introduce institutional changes which respond favorably to present demands. Instead, it perpetuates the mistakes of the past.

- Contrary to its pronounced claims, the draft Charter enshrines the military as superior to civilian authority.

- The process of the framing of the Constitution is attended to with a fundamental infirmity which violates a cardinal rule of Constitution-making in a democracy.

- It includes in the transitory article a provision which runs counter to the democratic principle that elections should provide an opportunity for a choice among more than one candidate for an office.

- The ratification of the draft Charter cannot bring national stabilization, nor will it resolve the fundamental issues which confront the people and the administration.

## 3 groups launch 'yes' campaigns

Three more professional groups have launched their respective campaigns for the ratification of the draft constitution in the Feb. 2, 1987, plebiscite.

The Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) which has five million members, the lawyers' group ALMA, and the Metro Manila Knights of Columbus, decided to conduct all-out drives for approval of the charter.

President Cecilia Muñoz Palma of the Constitutional Commission (Con-Com), said  
(Turn to page 18, col. 5)

## 3 GROUPS (Cont'd from page 1)

These moves are "indicative of the burgeoning endorsement by the professional and middle-class sectors who, along with the deprived masses, will benefit most from the ratification of the charter."

Commissioners Berafin Gulagosa, Rustico de los Reyes, Jose Bengson, Jose Colayco, Vicente B. Fox, Rene Sarmiento, and Wilfrido Villacorta exhorted the public in various forums yesterday to support the registration of voters on Dec. 6, 7, 13, and 14.

Addressing veterans, religious and militant groups in San Fernando, Pampanga, and in Metro Manila, Gulagosa said the 48 commissioners "set aside self-interest in nearly four months of sessions in faithfully adhering to the mandate to draft a document truly reflective of the ideals and aspirations of the people."

Bengson, speaking before school crowds in Central Luzon, said a vote for the charter would lead to the dismantling of the traditional two-party system in favor of an "open party system that would accord the humblest leader equal opportunity to run for public office."

Jose Calderon said the nation is now enjoying "probably the warmest applause and acceptance in the United States epitomized by the Americans' adulation of President Aquino as today's symbol of peace, freedom, and democracy."

Calderon, back from a two-month stay in the US, said the draft charter has given self-respect and pride to thousands of Filipinos in the US who generally regard the draft as "the herald of peace and progress" in their homeland.

most Adeline Bitoy denied yesterday reports that he is one of the "group of independents" working against the proposed constitution.

Bitoy, in a long-distance call to the *Manila Bulletin*, said that he has joined several former MPs in campaigning for a "yes" vote.

## 'Yes' campaign

The Cooperative Union of the Philippines, an umbrella group of the cooperative movement, will campaign for the ratification of the proposed constitution, CUP President Arcadio S. Lozada said yesterday.

He said the campaign was strongly endorsed by CUP members who had been consulted in a series of regional dialogues on the proposed constitution.

"The CUP wants to show its support to the Aquino government which considers the ratification of the charter as a necessary step towards national stability," Lozada said.

While the CUP noted that there are some loopholes in the proposed charter these loopholes can be plugged through legislation by the Congress, CUP managing director Benjamin A. Cruz, said.

## Knights for 'yes'

The Knights of Columbus in Metro Manila gave a resounding "Yes" vote to the new constitution at a meeting of all grand knights and representatives of Knights of Columbus councils in Metro Manila, Saturday, Nov. 29.

Con-Com members Hilario Davide Jr. and Adolfo Azcuna, both members of the Knights of Columbus, spoke on the issues about the new constitution.

The meeting was presided by district deputy Silver Quiano, Ray Soliman, and Francisco Lazaro. Acting Philippines deputy Lauro Cruz supervised the voting.

The councils were urged to conduct a "Get Out and Register campaign" and help the Comelac and the Namfrel during the registration of voters.

## ALMA

ALMA, a nationwide movement of attorneys established during the last presidential campaign, has decided to call upon its members to campaign for the ratification of the draft constitution.

The members agreed that

stability and normalcy can only be attained when a new constitution is ratified and a constitutional government is in place.

## KALAW PREDICTS

# Charter won't receive support

Former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw said yesterday the proposed new Constitution will not receive overwhelming support from the people because its provision on the term of office of the incumbent president and vice president is a divisive issue.

Mrs. Kalaw, Liberal Party chairman, said in a radio interview that the Aquino administration's moves to identify the "yes" vote for the Constitution as a vote for the Aquino government places the Charter's approval in question.

She said the "attachment" of such a non-partisan issue to the issue of the term of the president would only divide the people, especially those who are critical of the new government but are not necessarily against the new Charter.

"You cannot attach one person to the Constitution. Such an attachment could divide the people further," Mrs. Kalaw said.

In such a situation, Mrs. Kalaw said the President could not expect the overwhelming approval

of the Constitution. She said surveys conducted by her party showed that the new Constitution would be rejected in Northern Luzon.

This is primarily due to the strong presence of the Marcos loyalist groups in the Ilocos provinces, she said.

The former assemblywoman, who is seen as a strong candidate in the mayoral race in Manila in the local elections in May, said that according to her party's report, only the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions would approve the Constitution.

She said a strong factor in the "yes" vote for the Constitution in these areas is the strength of the Laurel-led United Nationalist Democratic Organization. She declined to predict the outcome of the ratification drive in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"I don't think there is going to be a resounding 'yes' vote," she said after pointing out the government's weaknesses in its ratification drive.

She said former AFP Vice Chief of Staff Rafael Iletto's appointment as defense minister shows the government's drift toward a stronger anti-insurgency policy.

"The giving of a civilian post to a military man like Iletto indicates a stronger hand in the handling of the insurgency," Mrs. Kalaw said.

She said such a change resulted from former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's severe criticisms of Mrs. Aquino's insurgency policy which Enrile had described as "too soft."

Short of vindicating Enrile, Mrs. Kalaw said President Aquino's actions only prove that the military's assessment of the insurgency situation was the "right evaluation."

She added that Enrile should not have been replaced since the administration has adopted the former defense minister's hardline approach.

Kalaw also expressed suspicion

over the role of the United States as the "unseen hand" in the ouster of Enrile from the Cabinet.

Former Sen. Arturo M. Tolentino for his part, urged the people to vote on the proposed Constitution with reason instead of prejudice, guided by principles and not personalities.

Addressing students at the University of the Philippines, Tolentino said the entire draft must be studied, because there are important provisions other than the controversial one on the tenure of President Aquino and Vice President Salvador H. Laurel.

Tolentino said that regardless of the performance of Mrs. Aquino, the provision allowing her to remain in office until 1992 without facing an election is objectionable in principle.

"We are used to vote directly for our president, and so this provision deprives us of that right, in effect disenfranchizing the entire people to that extent," he said.

## NAMFREL ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

### COMELEC-NAMFREL RELATIONSHIP: ENCOURAGING

As news coverage has indicated the relationship between NAMFREL and the new COMELEC is now firmly based on cooperation and support. Because of this development, we have the following encouraging joint efforts, which will will hopefully set the tone for similarly warm cooperation between NAMFREL and the new COMELEC at the chapter level:

#### A. Accreditation

The NAMFREL Executive Council will file this week a petition for nationwide re-accreditation as COMELEC citizen arm for the forthcoming general registration and plebiscite. From preliminary discussions with COMELEC Commissioners and the Executive Director, NAMFREL can expect a favorable and early accreditation, unlike in the previous experience. Moreover, guidelines on chapter and volunteer accreditation are expected to be clearer and simpler, unlike before.

#### B. COMELEC Reorganization

The COMELEC is conducting summary proceedings on the matter of errant registrars, provincial supervisors, and other officials. The pace of reorganization is affected by the necessity for due process. NAMFREL chapter recommendations, both in letter and affidavit form are immediately transmitted to the COMELEC for appropriate action. Chapters are encouraged to submit affidavits or sworn statements of complaint so that the Commission will have a solid and legal basis for action. The sooner these are done, the faster the reorganization.

#### C. COMELEC-NAMFREL Computerization Project

This significant undertaking has been accorded a very high priority from the COMELEC and the present administration. In a meeting at Malacañang among Pres. Cory Aquino, COMELEC Chairman Felipe, NAMFREL Chairman Monsod, Vice-Chairman Edgardo Angara, Council members Cesar Buenaventura and Ed Espiritu, Deputy Secretary-General Greg Atienza, and others, there was unanimity of strong support of this endeavor. In fact, the COMELEC will soon issue an en banc resolution affirming its commitment to the project starting with the computerization of the voters lists. NAMFREL will play a supportive role in terms of technical assistance, (through PCS and PICPA, among others) and in looking for donors both local and foreign. All donations will be to the government.

#### D. COMELEC-NAMFREL "Candidates Forum"

Another novelty is the "Candidates Forum", recently approved-in-principle by the Commission. We hope to provide an impartial setting for candidates to present their qualifications, and platform (come legislative and local elections next year). In so doing, it is hoped that the level of campaigning will be more issue-oriented, and that the usual tensions will be diffused. Citizens will be intensely involved through a multi-sectoral panel of "interrogators" who will field questions. The audience may send in their queries as well.

- 66 -

## OTHER ELECTION-RELATED PROJECTS

### A. General Registration and Plebiscite

As in the past, NAMFREL will remobilize for the general registration in order to help cleanse the voter rolls of illegal entries. Our active participation and assistance will also help offset/prevent the disenfranchisement of legitimate voters as what happened in the snap elections. Specifically, the following activities are deemed important:

1. setting up voters assistance centers in polling places;
2. pollwatching at the precincts;
3. spearheading a "go and register" campaign among voters;
4. reporting on the conduct and turnout of registration.

In terms of the plebiscite, the Executive Council has unanimously decided that NAMFREL as an organization should not take an official stand on the proposed Constitution. Instead, we will be engaged in an information campaign on the same, while likewise promote a high turnout, and pollwatch/OCG on plebiscite day. For this reason, Chairman Christian S. Monsod, Council members Atty. Ricardo Romulo, and Ms. Teresa F. Nieva, who have been honored with appointments as Constitutional Commissioners, have voluntarily taken a leave of absence. Atty. Edgardo J. Angara will be the Acting Chairman.

### B. Tie-Up with Evelio B. Javier Foundation

The Evelio B. Javier Foundation has asked NAMFREL to help as "consultants" in their forthcoming seminars. The foundation has formulated a seminar module on "A New Moral Order in Public Service" for candidates to elective office. NAMFREL chapters are merely requested to give feedback on a list of possible seminar participants (candidates). In addition, some chapter officers will be invited as seminar observers. This tie-up is foreseen to be complementary to the COMELEC-NAMFREL "Candidates Forum", as the seminar may be termed "Candidates Preparation". Lastly, winners of elections will then be invited by the Foundation to attend a seminar-briefing on public administration.

## BANTAY NG BAYAN PROJECTS

Consistent with the March 1985 NAMFREL National Convention consensus to engage in the "Bantay ng Bayan" Program, NAMFREL is now undertaking two activities -- monitoring of government projects, and acting as deputies for the Board of Censors.

### A. Monitoring of Government Projects

Early reports on this endeavor are varied. While some chapters have successfully launched their respective monitoring efforts, some have understandably encountered difficulties in implementation. Still some chapters have formulated their own level of involvement, depending on local conditions. In one example, a chapter involved other organizations which have a stronger presence in a given area. In another, the chapter limits itself to a once-a-month evaluation, while others do so more frequently. These differences in approach are to be expected considering the variety of influencing factors such as:

To fully implement the project, the following are necessary:

1. The bona fide chapter chairman submits his name and that of other qualified I.A.M.F.R.E.L. members to the National Secretariat. The number of "deputies" depends on the number of moviehouses, at the ratio of 3 deputies per moviehouse. It is requested that deputies be chosen based on integrity, commitment to anti-pornography, among others (see agreement).
2. The chapter also submits an updated inventory of moviehouses (initial listing provided) in their area.
3. I.A.M.F.R.E.L. National forwards the names of nominated deputies to the MTRCE for approval. The MTRCE then issues a "chapter pass" at the ratio of 1 pass per 3 moviehouses. The MTRCE also issues the necessary primers, guidelines, and reporting forms. The guidelines as to what constitutes a violation is very explicit thus simplifying monitoring efforts.
4. Upon receipt of these materials the chapter chairman signs the pass and laminates them. The pass will enable the local chairman to rotate and to move around the MTRCE pass among the authorized deputies for optimal coverage. The chapter can formulate its own schedule of monitoring among the deputies.
5. The chapter should ensure that the deputies function within the stipulated guidelines.
6. Chapter chairmen should notify the I.A.M.F.R.E.L. Secretariat of changes/additions of deputies so that the MTRCE may be accordingly notified.
7. Happy and responsible viewing!!!

68

To fully implement the project, the following are necessary:

1. The bona fide chapter chairman submits his name and that of other qualified IAMFPREL members to the National Secretariat. The number of "deputies" depends on the number of moviehouses, at the ratio of 3 deputies per moviehouse. It is requested that deputies be chosen based on integrity, commitment to anti-pornography, among others (see agreement).
2. The chapter also submits an updated inventory of moviehouses (initial listing provided) in their area.
3. IAMFPREL National forwards the names of nominated deputies to the MTRC for approval. The MTRC then issues a "chapter pass" at the ratio of 1 pass per 3 moviehouses. The MTRC also issues the necessary primers, guidelines, and reporting forms. The guidelines as to what constitutes a violation is very explicit thus simplifying monitoring efforts.
4. Upon receipt of these materials the chapter chairman signs the pass and laminates them. The pass will enable the local chairman to rotate and to move around the MTRC pass among the authorized deputies for optimal coverage. The chapter can formulate its own schedule of monitoring among the deputies.
5. The chapter should ensure that the deputies function within the stipulated guidelines.
6. Chapter chairmen should notify the IAMFPREL Secretariat of changes/additions of deputies so that the MTRC may be accordingly notified.
7. Happy and responsible viewing!!!

CHAPTER FORMATION REPORT

CITY/MUNICIPALITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN
RESIDENCE
CITY/MUNICIPALITY
PROVINCE
PHONE: HOME                      OFFICE
ORGANIZATION
POSITION

VICE CHAIRMAN
RESIDENCE
CITY/MUNICIPALITY
PROVINCE
PHONE: HOME                      OFFICE
ORGANIZATION:
POSITION

SECRETARY
RESIDENCE
PROVINCE
PHONE: HOME                      OFFICE
ORGANIZATION
POSITION

TREASURER
RESIDENCE
CITY/MUNICIPALITY
PROVINCE
PHONE: HOME                      OFFICE
ORGANIZATION
POSITION

CONVENOR
RESIDENCE
CITY/MUNICIPALITY
PROVINCE
PHONE: HOME                      OFFICE
ORGANIZATION
POSITION

DIRECTORS:		PHONE
	FULL NAME	
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____

- COMMITTEE CHARIMEN:
- COMMUNICATIONS \_\_\_\_\_
  - EXTERNAL RELATIONS \_\_\_\_\_
  - POLITICAL PARTY LIASON \_\_\_\_\_
  - FINANCE \_\_\_\_\_
  - LEGAL \_\_\_\_\_
  - MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_
  - MOBILE PATROL \_\_\_\_\_
  - PUBLIC INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_
  - OPERATION QUICK COUNT \_\_\_\_\_
  - SECRETARIAT \_\_\_\_\_
  - SECURITY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PREPARED: \_\_\_\_\_

REMINDER: Please send directly to:

N A M F R E L  
 National Secretariat  
 8th Floor, RFM Building  
 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong  
 Metro Manila, Philippines

PHONE: 772472 / 772474 / 772481

MONDAY • DECEMBER 1, 1986

(SGD.) RAMON H. FELIPE, JR.  
Chairman  
(SGD.) LEOPOLDO L. AFRICA  
Commissioner  
(SGD.) ANACLETO D. BADOY, JR.  
Commissioner  
(SGD.) DARIO C. RAMA  
Commissioner  
(SGD.) HAYDEE B. YORAC  
Commissioner  
(SGD.) ANDRES R. FLORES  
Commissioner

**SPECIAL DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ACCRE-  
DITATION AS CITIZEN ARM OF THE COMMISSION.**

SPC NO. 86-028

**NATIONAL CITIZENS MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELEC-  
TIONS (NAMFREL) PROMULGATED:  
PETITIONER. November 27, 1986**

RAMA, D.C., Commissioner:

**RESOLUTION**

This is a verified petition of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) for accreditation as citizens arm of the Commission on Elections in connection with the general registration of voters on December 6, 7, 13 and 14, 1986 and the February 2, 1987 plebiscite on the proposed Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. Petitioner NAMFREL seeks accreditation on a nationwide basis.

Pursuant to the order of the Commission dated November 18, 1986, petitioner caused the publication of the instant petition in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in its issue of November 23, 1986.

In the hearing of the petition held on November 24, 1986, at the Session Hall of the Commission on Elections no oppositor appeared or filed an opposition. Petitioner presented as witnesses in support of its petition, the persons of Edgardo J. Angara, Acting Chairman of NAMFREL, and Gregorio J. Atienza, Deputy Secretary-General of NAMFREL. Both witnesses testified in support of the allegations contained in the verified petition. In addition to testimonial evidence, the petitioner also submitted documentary evidence (Exhibits "A" and "B"), in support of the petition.

Assessing the evidence presented by petitioner, the Commission finds that petitioner has met the quantum of evidence required for accreditation as contained in Comelec Resolution No. 1781, promulgated by the Commission on November 3, 1986. Hence, the Commission resolves to accredit, as it hereby accredits, the petitioner NAMFREL as a citizens arm of the Commission on Elections throughout the Philippines under the Commission's direct and immediate control and supervision, in connection with the general registration of voters on December 6, 7, 13 and 14, 1986 and the February 2, 1987 plebiscite on the proposed Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, subject to the following conditions:

1. That petitioner shall perform the functions and duties enumerated in Section 52 (k) of the Omnibus Election Code; those enumerated in Comelec Resolution No. 1781 promulgated on November 3, 1986, and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign to it;
2. That the petitioner shall remain non-partisan and impartial during the registration period and the ensuing plebiscite on the proposed Constitution;
3. That petitioner shall undertake to police its ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or groups of persons who may directly or indirectly destroy its character of impartiality;
4. That the petitioner shall not solicit or receive directly or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any foreign government, corporation or entity, and that neither said organization nor any of its members seek to achieve its objectives or programs through violence, or aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of republican and democratic government;
5. That petitioner NAMFREL and all its officials and volunteers directly involved in the general registration of voters and the plebiscite are hereby prohibited from campaigning for or against the ratification of the proposed Constitution similar to the prohibition imposed by the Commission on all Comelec employees and deputized government ministries and offices pursuant to Comelec Resolution No. 1792 promulgated on November 3, 1986;
6. That the officers of petitioner who are on leave and who are members of the Constitutional Commission and actively campaigning for its ratification in the coming plebiscite on February 2, 1987, are hereby required to submit immediately their respective resignations from NAMFREL to the Commission on Elections;
7. That this accreditation may be revoked by the Commission at anytime upon showing that petitioner NAMFREL or any of its chapter officials are engaging in any partisan political activities or have violated any resolution, order, ruling or instruction of the Commission or have violated any of the conditions herein for its accreditation; and
8. That this accreditation shall automatically lapse at the end of the political exercise for which the petitioner is accredited as citizens arm of the Commission.

The Education and Information Department of the Commission is hereby directed to cause the publication and dissemination of this resolution.

SO ORDERED

(SGD.) DARIO C. RAMA  
Commissioner

WE CONCUR

(SGD.) RAMON H. FELIPE, JR.  
Chairman  
(SGD.) LEOPOLDO L. AFRICA  
Commissioner



**• NAMFREL •**  
CITIZEN ARM OF THE COMELEC

## NATIONAL CITIZENS MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS

8th Floor, RFM Building, Pioneer St.,  
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel Nos. 772472, 772474, 772481

Telegrams  
Telex No  
Cable Address

RCPI 2125 RECON PH  
PT&T 2384 RECON PU  
43119 REFLOUR PM  
REFLOUR MANILA

November 25, 1986

CIRCULAR TO: ALL NAMFREL CHAPTER CHAIRMEN/COORDINATORS  
FROM: NAMFREL HQ C/O DEPUTY SEC. GEN. GREGORIO J. ATIENZA

By the time you receive this circular, NAMFREL would have already been granted COMELEC accreditation as nationwide Citizen arm. We would like to convey to the volunteer network some instructions as to materials and procedures.

### M A T E R I A L S

#### 1. "DESIGNATION OF NAMFREL REPRESENTATIVE"

- a) This formally authorizes our provincial, city, and municipal chairmen to nominate pollwatchers (and substitutes) through the corresponding election registrars, in keeping with the accreditation process per our petition.
- b) Please fill in the blanks and distribute to the appropriate individuals. Immediately send (or call) to the National Secretariat the complete list of provincial, city and municipal officers for revalidation of our directory.
- c) Upon presentation of the designation paper and the list of pollwatchers to the registrar, the latter should AUTOMATICALLY give accreditation by issuing the "COMELEC Citizen Arm Passes" or what we call pollwatcher badges (colored pink). This is stipulated in our petition for accreditation. The COMELEC has produced and disseminated these passes to registrars at the ratio of 3 per precinct, so that there will be sufficient passes. IF FOR SOME REASON THE REGISTRAR DOES NOT ACCOMMODATE NAMFREL, KINDLY INFORM US IMMEDIATELY SO THAT WE CAN TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.
- d) You will note that the passes are not numbered as ours was last time. This might encourage fake passes so we can strongly urge all chapters to place some coding system on the cards to ensure proper identification of NAMFREL watchers. We do not wish to be held liable for fake pollwatchers.

#### 2. NAMFREL IDs

These IDs are the latest for the membership. These are not authorized for pollwatching functions but may be used for other activities including the monitoring of government projects.

ALLOCATION FOR CITY/MUNICIPAL CHAPTERS: 3 for every precinct

ADDITIONAL MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES/TIPS

A. PUBLICITY ON GENERAL REGISTRATION

As earlier mentioned not many people are know that ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS MUST REGISTER AGAIN, so we must help raise public awareness, while also encouraging citizens to join NAMFREL. Aside from the posters, we suggest the following:

1. Coordinate with the COMELEC registrar. COMELEC Executive Director Atty. Vicente B. de Lima has instructed registrars to avail of "COMELEC TIME" (in especially radio stations, FOR FREE. The same privilege extends to NAMFREL, as citizen arm. This is the most effective way of raising awareness at no cost. Chapters can use the PRIMER ON GENERAL REGISTRATION found in the registration kits.
2. Use of "Barkers" or loudspeaker systems to announce the general registration. These loudspeakers may be mounted on tricycles, cars, jeeps, etc..
3. Holding of a NAMFREL "rally", motorcade, symposium, etc.. to inform the public of the event. The primer on general registration will prove very useful here.
4. Request the parish priest and others who hold regular forums announce the event and that all qualified voters are affected. NAMFREL may also try to obtain endorsements.
5. Request school heads to announce the event to students and faculty.

Aside from generating interest in the registration, we want to show to the public that NAMFREL is still very much active. This is also why we strongly encourage chapters to campaign for a high voter turnout for registration.

B. TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF PRECINCT MAPS

The new COMELEC will revive the practice of posting maps which will indicate baranggays and their precinct assignments. This is scheduled for December 2, as indicated in the Remobilization Timetable. Please inspect these maps which will be posted in public areas such as the city/town hall or with the registrar. The maps can help detect "ghost baranggays and precincts".. In addition, the COMELEC intends to follow strictly the "BARANGGAY-TERRITORIAL" rule in determining precinct assignments of voters.

BARANGGAY-TERRITORIAL RULE

In brief, this rule defines voters of a precinct based on a specific and limited geographical area. Hence, voters living within the same neighborhood will usually have the same precinct assignment. Previously, some areas already followed this rule but some others followed the baranggay-alphabetical rule wherein a geographical unit like a baranggay was divided into precincts ALPHABETICALLY. In some cases, this resulted in voters living within the same neighborhood casting their votes in different precincts because the starting letters in their names differed.



# Namfrel gets conditional accreditation as Comelec arm

By EFREN L. DANA O

The Commission on Elections issued yesterday a conditional accreditation to the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections as its citizen's arm.

NAMFREL officials immediately told The STAR that they will comply with the Comelec conditions.

In a resolution penned by Commissioner Dario Rama, the Comelec asked for the resignation from NAMFREL of its officers who are members of the Constitutional Commission and actively cam-

paigned for the Constitution's ratification.

The NAMFREL officers referred to are Christian Monsod, national chairman, and Ricardo Romulo and Teresa Nieva, members of the executive council. All three are constitutional commissioners. They went on leave from NAMFREL before it filed its application for accreditation.

The Comelec also enjoined all NAMFREL officials and volunteers "directly involved in the general registration of

voters and the plebiscite (to desist) from campaigning for or against the ratification of the proposed Constitution."

Deputy Secretary-General Greg Atienza told The STAR that Monsod has already given his word to resign.

He added that he will "talk to" Nieva and Romulo tomorrow.

Earlier, NAMFREL has decided not to take any official stand on the proposed charter. But it has allowed its individual members to campaign on their personal capa-

city whether for or against the new charter.

"The Comelec perceives taking sides in the coming plebiscite as partisan while we don't. Even the justice minister has clearly said that government employees can campaign for or against the Constitution. But of paramount importance now is that NAMFREL get the accreditation," Atienza said.

The Comelec had threatened to withdraw its accreditation if NAMFREL does not follow the conditions it has imposed.

## C-C men in Namfrel urged: Resign

THE COMMISSION on Elections suggested yesterday that officials of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections who are Constitutional Commission members resign from Namfrel to remove doubts on the group's independence.

The Comelec, subjecting the Namfrel to a two-hour public hearing on its petition to be accredited as citizen's arm in the coming poll, identified these Namfrel officials as Commissioners Christian Monsod, chairman, Ricardo Romulo, chairman for legal matters, and Teresa Nieva, treasurer. All are on leave from Namfrel.

Comelec chairman Ramon H.

By DAVE BORJE

Felipe Jr. and Commissioners Leopoldo L. Africa, Anacleto D. Badoy Jr., Andres R. Flores, and Dario Rama, took turns in questioning Acting Namfrel Chairman Edgardo J. Angara.

Angara and Atienza were placed on the witness stand by Namfrel counsel Rogelio Nicandro to strengthen its petition for accreditation as the citizens arm during the general registration of voters on Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14 and in Feb. 2 plebiscite.

• • •

AFRICA AND Badoy said that public

and private organizations deputized by the Comelec must maintain strict impartiality.

Badoy cited Comelec Resolution No. 1792, promulgated last Nov. 3, prohibiting all Comelec officials and employees involved in the general registration of voters and plebiscite from campaigning for or against the draft Constitution to maintain the non-partisan status of the poll body and enhance its credibility.

Badoy said deputized arms of the Comelec should also be covered by the same resolution to boost the poll body's independent status.

Angara and Atienza admitted that while their group is non-partisan and independent, its officials and members can campaign in their individual capacity for or against the draft Constitution.

# Namfrel stresses need for ballots safety

By JOE QUIRINO

"POLITICIANS will always cheat."

This was stressed yesterday at the Kapihan sa Manila by UP President and acting Namfrel

Chairman Ed Angara to support his contention that there is need for safeguarding the ballot in any election.

Angara, one of the

guests at the Kapihan, also underscored the need for a massive information campaign to tell the people about the importance of the forth-

coming plebiscite on the draft Constitution.

"Historically, only 34 to 37 per cent take part in Philippine plebiscites."

(Turn to page 6)

## Namfrel stresses need for ballots safety

From page 1

be continued. "The principal function of any information drive about the draft Constitution is to convince the people to go out and vote."

About the forthcoming registration days for all voters, Angara pointed out: "Many people do not realize that if you don't register now, you'll not be allowed to vote not only in the plebiscite but also in next year's elections."

Political Affairs Minister Antonio Cuenco, for his part, said that at least 70 per cent of the registered voters will vote for the draft Constitution on Plebiscite Day while former MP Homobono Adaza, playing his favorite role as oppositionist, maintained that the proposed Constitution will be disapproved by the people.

"Even some stalwarts of the KBL and other opposition parties have come out openly for the ratification of the draft Constitution," Cuenco declared. "Wherever we hold rallies, the crowds are enthusiastic over the new Constitution."

"Don't rely on rallies as a gauge about the so-called popularity of the draft Constitution," Ad-

za reminded Cuenco. "In Mindanao, for example, you'll be surprised over the clobbering of the draft Constitution."

Explaining the Namfrel's role on the plebiscite, Angara said: "We are fielding 100,000 Namfrel volunteers for the country's 90,000 precincts. Namfrel's principal role is to inform the people about the issues involved and to urge them to go out and vote on Plebiscite Day."

Questioning the impartiality of Namfrel, Adaza implied that this organization can only campaign for the approval of the Constitution because many of its officers have been appointed to high offices in the government. He cited Jose Concepcion, Jr., who's now commerce and industry minister; Vicente Jayme, now public works and highways minister; and Vicente Paterno, now deputy executive secretary for energy.

Angara countered that out of 500,000 Namfrel volunteers, only three are now occupying high office. "Besides," he added, "this should speak well about the efficacy of an organization like the Namfrel."

## COMELEC REQUIREMENT

### 3 top Namfrel officials quit citizens poll body

THREE top Namfrel officials, all commissioners of the presidential-appointed body, will resign today from the citizens' poll body, Namfrel officials said.

Earlier, Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe told newsmen that the requirement was imposed on Namfrel, which figured in the February snap polls, as a pre-condition for accreditation.

He said the body had to preserve its image of impartiality and objectivity as regards its role in the December 6, 7, 13, and 14 registration and the February 2 plebiscite.

The draft Charter, written by 47 Commissioners a few months after Mrs. Corason Aquino was swept to power by a military rebellion,

would be presented to nearly 30 million voters next February.

Greg Atienza, acting secretary-general of Namfrel, revealed that Christian Monsod would resign as chairman, Teresa Nieva as treasurer and Ricardo Romulo as vice-chairman.

Edgardo Angara is now acting chairman and Atienza acting secretary general.

Atienza said that this was a consensus after closed door meetings were held yesterday.

Since the Namfrel only received its accreditation last Thursday, November 28, Atienza also said that they had very little time to execute their functions as information campaigners for the ratification and the plebiscite.

Their target mem-

bership for the ratification is 100,000 and 250,000 for the forthcoming plebiscite.

Namfrel, as citizens' arm in the snap elections, fielded more than 50,000 throughout the country's election precincts.

Observers said they helped deter alleged government cheating in the elections, a year away from the end of the six-year term of President Marcos he got in the 1981 presidential polls.

In the snap polls, the now abolished Batasang Pambansa declared incumbent President Marcos and his running mate Arturo Tolentino winners shortly before the largely peaceful rebellion led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who was relieved of his post last week by Mrs. Aquino.

# SC asks Comelec to answer

The Supreme Court has ordered the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to answer a petition questioning the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 50.

The executive order excludes representatives of accredited political parties from membership in the board of election inspectors, particularly in the new registration of voters.

The petition was filed by former assemblyman Gerardo S. Espina, chairman for Metro Manila of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL).

The KBL is seeking to

inhibit the Comelec and the budget minister, who were named in the petition, from implementing the executive order.

The KBL petition was filed with the Supreme Court last Nov. 17.

The party challenged Section 5 of Executive Order No. 50 which authorizes the Comelec, directly or through its representatives, to appoint only public school teachers to the boards of election inspectors.

The KBL pointed out that under Section 9 (2) Article XII (C) of the

1973 Constitution, which was adopted without modification by the Freedom Constitution, "accredited political parties are entitled to be represented in the boards of election inspectors and other similar bodies as provided by law."

Since the KBL is a duly accredited political party, the petition said, it should be represented

in the boards created under Executive Order No. 50. The right of the KBL to be represented in these boards, it asserts, is "unmistakably clear."

The general registration of voters, through invalidly constituted boards of election inspectors, will taint the entire process leading to the ratification of the new constitution," the

party said.

The KBL has asked the Supreme Court to restrain the Comelec and its representatives from enforcing Executive Order No. 50, and the budget minister from disbursing public funds for the purpose.

The KBL is represented in the case by Espina, and lawyers Sergio Apostol and Mario Guarina III.

# Registration starts Saturday

Leaders of the Constitutional Commission and two national organizations exhorted all qualified citizens yesterday to register in the new voters' list as a "sacred act in affirmation of our citizenship."

The registration starts Saturday, Dec. 6. Succeeding registration dates are Dec. 7, 13, and 14.

Concom President Cecilia Muñoz Palma said the registration "deepens the call of President Aquino for a fresh start, to imbue as well the electoral processes with honesty and integrity in a climate of freedom ushered in by the new government."

President Vicente D. Millora of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines said legally there are no voters today, after the Commission on Elections annulled the old list, making it obligatory for all citizens to register anew to qualify them to participate in the constitutional plebiscite on Feb. 2, the legislative election on May 22, the local elections whose date has yet to be fixed, and the presidential polls on June 30, 1992.

President Froilan Bacungan of the Philippine Constitution Association called on all political, professional, civic,

and sectoral organizations to join the campaign for registration as a "function more basic than the participation in the forthcoming electoral exercises."

They said Executive Order No. 50, voiding the 1986 voters' list and calling for a new registration, will eliminate "flying and other illegal voters" and open the way for the listing of those who failed to register in 1986.

(*Cont'd from page 1*)

BULLETIN, TUES., DEC. 2, 1986

## REGISTRATION

(*Cont'd from page 1*)

Dr. Amado C. Dizon, executive vice president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, said school officers, faculty members and student leaders have been harnessed for the campaign in some 2,840 member schools across the land.

their information campaign.

Enliso appealed to service organizations such as the Lions, Jaycees, Rotarians and Kiwanis to support the information campaign to draw more people to the plebiscite.

The new FPJCP board of directors decided that the following federation officers will supervise their respective areas: Alfredo R. Tria and Buddy Flor (president of the Federation of Bicol Press Clubs), Bicol region; Orville Mauricio and Cesar de la Torre, Central Luzon; Pol Quesada and Joe Gonzales, Northern Luzon; Hovior Dumith and Yul Malico, Metro Manila and suburbs; Erico Aumentado, Lindy Manba and Ely Deureno, Visayas; Jimmy Hernandez, Cassim Arzonel, Larry Sevilla, Joe Marchan, and Massey Macapundag, Mindanao (Pres. M. Yndani).

### Agreement

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the Federation of Provincial Press Clubs of the Philippines (FPJCP) have forged an agreement for full-blast information drive on the Feb. 2 plebiscite on the draft constitution.

Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe Jr., accompanied to Malacanang the delegates of the country's 100 community press clubs, who attended the induction rite of the FPJCP officers. Felipe informed the President of the joint information campaign for the Comelec and the community journalists on the February 2 plebiscite.

Nick T. Enliso, FPJCP executive president, informed the President that the members of the federation who are involved with some 200 community newspapers and 120 television and radio stations, are committed to explain the various aspects of the draft constitution.

Felipe assured the community media that they will be adequately furnished with all the materials needed in

## Comelec to Use Computers for Feb. 2

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) today said the results of the Feb. 2 plebiscite will be known within a week or so.

Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe, Jr. said the poll body will use its computers to undertake "Operation Quick Count" to determine the plebiscite results.

The Comelec chief said the plebiscite results will be based on the election returns to be submitted by various election registrars.

Felipe said some civic organizations, like the Manila Jaycees, have sought accreditation as citizens arms of the poll body for the Dec. 6, 7, 13, and 14 voters' registration and Feb. 2 plebiscite.

Earlier, the National Movement for Free

Elections (Namfrel) had filed a petition for accreditation as citizens' arm in the plebiscite.

The Namfrel was criticized for alleged partiality in the last Feb. 7 snap presidential elections.

Comelec Commissioner Dario Rama asked Edgardo Angara, Namfrel chairman to ask former members to resign from their posts in the organization.

Rama said the resignation are necessary to erase doubts on the Namfrel.

Christian Munsod, Namfrel vice president for legal affairs, said all former Con-Com members are only on "official leave" from the organization.

Turn to page 6

**COMTEC**  
Cont'd from page 1)  
Person depolled under  
Memorandum Order No. 63  
No coordinate with the  
Comelec in the performance  
of their respective duties  
and responsibilities.  
The general registration  
of voters has been author-  
ized under Executive  
Order No. 50, dated October  
30, 1986.

# Tribunal bans judges from charter campaign

The Supreme Court banned members of the judiciary yesterday from campaigning for or against the ratification of the proposed constitution, saying the independence of the judiciary had to be preserved.

In an en banc resolution, the tribunal said members of the judiciary were "free to express in private discussions their views," but "they should refrain from public in-

volvement in the said campaign for ratification of the draft constitution."

The resolution was issued in answer to a query from the Municipal Trial Judges League in Zamboanga del Norte, headed by Judge Pacifico Garcia of Dapitan City.

The judges said they wanted to participate in the campaign for the ratification, stating that "we feel we are in a better position to shed light

on the provisions of the proposed charter for the better understanding by our people especially those in the rural areas."

In its resolution, the high court said the campaign was "best left" to members of the Constitutional Commission, government officials, and members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

The court adopted and reiterated the disentan-

opinion of then Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee, joined by Justices Felix Makasalar and Cecilia Munoz-Palma, saying that judges should not participate in public discussions on plebiscite questions to "preserve the traditional non-involvement of the judiciary in public discussions of controversial issues."

"This is essential for the maintenance and enhancement of the people's faith

and confidence in the judiciary," Teehankee opined.

Teehankee issued the opinion shortly before the 1976 referendum on several national issues.

In the resolution yesterday, the tribunal said "the lifting of the traditional inhibition of judges from public discussion and debate might blemish the image and independence of the judiciary."

## Cory okays AFP role in election

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday authorized the Commission on Elections to deputize the 250,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines "to ensure free and peaceful voting in the Feb. 2 plebiscite for the draft Constitution.

A Malacanang press statement also said that the Comelec may use government agencies to guarantee free, orderly and honest conduct of the general registration of voters next week.

In asking the Comelec to deputize the military, Aquino expressed concern over fraud and violence that were the perennial features of past elections in the country.

MEANWHILE, Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe said on government television Saturday that he has deputized college students undergoing compulsory military training to safeguard the registration and polling places in cities and town centers.

He said the order would "relieve law enforcement bodies" from duties in urban areas so they could be used in the countryside "where they are more needed."

The plebiscite falls within a 60-day ceasefire period between government troops and communist guerrillas that is to take effect midday on Dec. 10.

## **X Comelec gets authority**

President Corason  
C. Aquino has signed  
Memorandum Order  
No. 68 authorizing  
the Commission on  
Elections "to deputize  
the New Armed  
Forces of the Philip-  
pines, the Philippine  
Constabulary-  
Integrated National  
Police, and any gov-  
ernment ministry,  
bureau, office, or  
agency, or its officials  
and employees."

This is to "ensure  
the free, orderly, and  
honest conduct of the  
general registration  
of voters and the  
national plebiscite."

She directed all  
government agencies,  
officials, and em-

Turn to page 17, col. 1

## **COMELEC**

(Cont'd from page 1)

They are deputized under  
Memorandum Order No. 68  
to coordinate with the  
Comelec in the performance  
of their respective duties  
and responsibilities."

The general registration  
of voters has been autho-  
rized under Executive  
Order No. 50, dated October  
20, 1986.

### **Cadets**

The Nacionalista Party,  
speaking through its as-  
sistant secretary general,  
hailed the deputization by  
the Comelec of CMT cadets  
for duty in the coming reg-  
istration of voters on Dec.  
6, 7, 13, and 14.

Vic Rabaya, NP asst  
secretary general on plan-  
ning and organization, said  
the Comelec decision to tap  
the CMT cadets is a step in  
the right direction which  
augurs well for a healthy  
political exercise.

Rabaya suggested that  
the services of CMT cadets  
be also tapped in the sche-  
duled national and local  
elections next year.

"Being young and idealis-  
tic, the cadets can be ex-  
pected to do their job well,  
which is just the thing  
needed in conducting a  
clean elections and insure  
the sanctity of the ballot,"  
he said.

Rabaya further recom-  
mended the granting of a  
reasonable allowance for  
the cadets who perform  
poll duty aside from the  
insurance coverage that  
they will be entitled to.

Rabaya also praised Pres-  
ident Aquino for her deci-  
sive action in revamping  
her Cabinet.

President Aquino should  
not limit the purge in the  
ministerial level but must  
also include deputy minis-  
ters, bureau directors, as  
well as the provincial and  
municipal OICs many of  
whom are incompetent and  
of doubtful integrity, he  
said.

"We will be willing to  
help President Aquino  
along this line in the in-  
terest of the nation and will  
provide her with a list of  
these undesirable officials

should she ask our help,"  
Rabaya said.

## KBL Hits . . .

The former assemblyman said "the memorandum implicitly instructs managers of the government's radio and television stations to "gross over the basic flaws and defects of the proposed Constitution" and evade discussions of the most vital but controversial issues such as the "granting of a six-year term to Corazon Aquino and Salvador Laurel."

Britanico expressed fears the Aquino government would use the people's owned electronic media to drown out opposition to the Charter ratification.

Reproduced below is the signed IBB memorandum:

In concurrence with and support of President Corazon C. Aquino's statement to campaign for the ratification of the new Constitution by the people, the following guidelines and/or policies are issued:

1. Our campaign shall be on the forgone conclusion that the proposed Constitution shall be ratified by the Filipino people and "rejection" is not in our vocabulary.

2. The common denominator of "battletory" is that the proposed Constitution is pro God, pro country and pro people.

3. Ratification of the Constitution will hasten the unity of the Filipino people.

4. The new Constitution can stand on its own merits. Having been drafted by group of distinguish persons coming from all sectors of society including the opposition.

5. Unless the issue crops up, it is better not to discuss the argument that the ConCom members were not elected but selected. Although one can defend it by citing Constitution of the US and other countries whose Constitution were also written by only a small group of men and they withstood the test of time.

6. Our campaign on the ratification of the new Constitution is non-partisan. We shall not use a "yes" vote is a vote for Mrs. Aquino. Repeat - the campaign is non-partisan and the political exercise is testing the maturity of the Filipino people. (This includes the term of the President and the Vice-President).

7. Familiarize yourselves with the proposed Constitution otherwise its better to keep your mouth shut.

8. Of the 47 members of the ConCom only two did not sign the draft Constitution. However, all the known oppositionists led by Mr. Blas Ople signed it.

9. Whether it is a soft sell or hard sell campaign, it is better to use a persuasive line than to attack those who may be against the ratification.

10. The forthcoming elections will be more meaningful especially to those who will be elected if the Constitution is ratified. There is no connection between the election and ratification but there is no harm in riding on the election fever especially the local elections.

## KBL Hits Bureau of Broadcasts

The Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) denounced yesterday the Ministry of Information (MI) for launching an all-out campaign for the ratification of the proposed Constitution by hiding from the people the defects of the controversial Charter.

Former Member of Parliament Salvador Britanico, KBL secretary general, said that the Bureau of Broadcast (BB) Director Jose Mari Gonzales has issued a memorandum to all government broadcast stations prescribing guidelines for the ratification campaign which are "obviously designed to misinform and confuse the people on the real issues involved on the coming plebiscite on Feb. 2

Britanico said the memorandum enjoins

the officials and personnel of all government-owned broadcast media to do the following:

- Assume that the ratification of the Constitution is a "forgone conclusion" and that "rejection is not in our vocabulary."

- Insist that the proposed Constitution is pro God, pro country, and pro people

- Avoid mention that the Constitutional Commission members were selected.

- Avoid saying a "yes" vote is a "vote for Mrs. Aquino." Instead insist that the ratification campaign is non-partisan, and

- Stress the fact that "all the known oppositionists led by Mr. Blas Ople signed the Draft Charter themselves."

Turn to page 3

## Supplies seized

# Comelec office in South raided

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said yesterday it has ordered military authorities to investigate alleged snatching of voters registration materials and supplies in Tawi-Tawi last Tuesday.

Chairman Ramon H. Felipe, Jr. said the poll body will act on the reported incident as soon as the investigation report has been received from Brig. Gen. Cesar Tapia, Southern Command and Region 9 Unified Command chief.

Felipe also announced that the Comelec has advanced to the local treasurers P64,430,250 for per diems of members of the boards of election inspectors in 85,946 precincts in the country.

He said the amount represents per diems of school teachers serving

in the boards for four registration days and one revision day at P50 per day.

Comelec provincial election supervisor Hassan T. Ibohajil complained to the poll body that at about 1:30 p.m. last Nov. 25, acting Gov. Hadji Almarin Tillah and armed guards raided the Comelec office in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, and forcibly took away three bundles of registration materials and supplies.

In a sworn statement, Ibohajil stated that the acts of Tillah and his men were violations of paragraph (f), Section 261, Article XXII of the Omnibus Election Code.

The Comelec said the P64.4 million advanced for per diems were allotted as follows:

National Capital Region (Metro Manila),

P9.2 million, Region 1 (Ilocos), P4.8 million, Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), P3 million, Region 3 (Central Luzon), P5.9 million, Region 4 (Southern Tagalog), P8 million.

Region 5 (Bicol), P14.2 million, Region 6 (Western Visayas), P5.9 million, Region 7 (Central Visayas), P4.9 million, Region 8 (Eastern Visayas), P4 million.

Region 9 (Western Mindanao), P3.3 million, Region 10 (Northern Mindanao), P3.4 million, Region 11 (Southern Mindanao), P1.8 million, Region 12 (Central Mindanao), P3.5 million.

Felipe said the figures do not include 39 precincts in Wao, Lanao del Sur, where payment of per diems of the board members will be under a separate scheme.

# Cory favors joint local national elections

By EFREN L. DANA

Political Affairs Minister Antonio Cuenco pressed yesterday for the holding of simultaneous local and national elections as he noted that opposition to this move is mainly centered on logistical problems.

"President Aquino is in favor of synchronized elections but she has asked me to submit recommendations on the mechanical or operational problems before she makes a decision," Cuenco said at the weekly Kapitan sa Manila forum at the Manila Hotel.

UP president Edgardo Angara, also concurrently national chairman of the National Citizens Movement for Free Election, agreed on the need for an early local election to ensure political stability.

"The cause of political stability is worth spending for," Cuenco said. President Aquino said last Friday at the Folk Arts Theater that she is for the holding of local elections three to four weeks after those for senators and congressmen.

Earlier, Comelec Chairman Ramon H. Felipe Jr. said local elections could not be held three to four weeks after the May 11 elections simply because the law says ballot boxes may not be emptied of their contents within 90 days from an election. He said the poll

Turn to Page 8

body would have to spend at least P45 million if new ballot boxes are purchased for 90,000 precincts.

Cuenco said the question of priority is involved here and he argued that political stability should be given priority over incurring more expenses.

He said that he would submit to the President the following proposals to overcome operational problems for simultaneous elections:

- Extend voting hours from the present 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Double the number of precincts from 90,000 to 180,000 while reducing the number of voters per precinct from 300 to 150.
- Use one set of ballots and ballot boxes for local election and another for congressional election.
- Print the names of candidates in the ballot and voters will just check a box opposite the names of the candidates of their choice.
- Use computer for the transmission of the results to the Comelec.

Cuenco's suggestion for the doubling of precincts entails the doubling of the number of boards of election inspectors and it has been noted that in certain areas, teachers are lacking.

"The Comelec can always appoint members of non-partisan civic groups like Namfrel to sit in the boards of election inspectors," Cuenco said.

He added that synchronized elections or the holding of the two elections close to each other would prevent losing candidates for Congress from running in the local elections again.

# Cory asks soldiers to help in plebiscite

By JOEL PAREDES

President Aquino yesterday announced a package of privileges for the Armed Forces as she called on the soldiers to help in the country's political exercises, particularly the plebiscite and elections next year.

The Chief Executive signed four executive orders at the Armed Forces command conference at Camp Aguinaldo, which she said "should help create the environment of common justice that soldier and civilian alike can defend and work for."

## AFP

(From page 1)

Rafael Ilto to issue necessary rules and regulations to carry out her orders, the President noted. The "seeming unfairness of the system that keeps so uncertain the rank and honor of men who have devoted so many years of their life at great risk to the service of their country."

She said however that her government recognized that procedures must be followed before changes can be effected "Otherwise I would have ordered this corrective measure sooner," she added.

Mrs. Aquino said she was "very happy" on the results of the cooperation between civilians and the military.

"I urge a similar cooperation in the coming political exercises

Her orders were

- Restoring free privileges to the Armed Forces commissary and exchange service and to the PC-INP service stores system.

- Providing combat clothing to officers assigned or detailed with units engaged in actual combat operations or with the field headquarters of combat units.

- Providing for the inclusion of reserve officers in the selection board.

- Laying down guidelines on the tour of active duty of reserve officers.

The President said a reserve officer will now be initially called to active duty for three years, but it shall be extended for another three years upon satisfactory completion of his tour of duty.

After six years of continuous service, his duty could be extended to another four years.

But after 10 years of active ~~commissioned military service, the~~ soldier shall not be reverted to inactive status except upon his own request or for cause as may be adjudged by a court martial or by provisions of law.

In instructing Defense Minister

(Page 2, please)

## CAMPAIGN FOR CHARTER OKAY

# Comelec says use of public funds illegal

By EFREN L. DANA O

The Commission on Elections said yesterday that it is illegal to spend public funds in campaigning for or against the ratification of the Constitution.

Atty. Nancy Madarang, manager of the Comelec law department, said the use of public funds for such acts is specifically prohibited under Sec. 261 of the Omnibus Election Code. Violators, she added, face imprisonment of one year to six years.

Madarang, however, would not say if the Constitutional Commission is, indeed, using public funds for the campaign for the ratification of the draft charter.

Former MP Homobono Adaza said Monday at the Ka-

pihan sa Manila forum that the money of the government is being used only for a "yes" vote instead of an information campaign.

"This is a clear violation of the equal protection clause," Adaza claimed.

The Con Com was authorized by President Aquino, through Executive Order No. 48, to use their savings amounting to about P2.5 million in waging an information campaign for the draft charter.

Justice Cecilia Munoz-Palma, Con Com president, however, denied that they are violating any law in using the P2.5-million savings.

"We can't use public funds without any appropriation by

the legislature and since there is no legislature, the President issued an executive order under her revolutionary powers. If there is any violation here, then let them sue the President," Justice Palma told The STAR.

She stressed that to campaign for the ratification of the charter is done for a public purpose and not for private gain and so, there is no violation involved.

"We are trusted with the duty to inform the public on what the Constitution is all about. Naturally, when we are asked if we are for its ratification, we would be hypocrites if we deny this. We framed the constitution, she added.

In another development, the Comelec yesterday approved a resolution prohibiting barangay officials from entering or staying inside any polling place "except to vote or except when serving as a watcher or member of the board of election inspectors."

The Comelec cited numerous complaints in the past of undue interference by barangay officials in electoral proceedings.

The barangay officials are also banned from being appointed as officials of political parties or of any socio-civic, religious or professional organizations in the general registration of voters and in the plebiscite.

# Registration rules issued by Comelec

By C. VALMORIA JR.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) released yesterday the procedures on general registration of voters as it expected an estimated 27 million qualified citizens to register in 85,946 precincts during the four-day listing which starts Saturday.

The Comelec asked the Supreme Court to

direct metropolitan and municipal court judges to make themselves available for 24 hours a day to receive, hear, and decide petitions for inclusion and exclusion of voters.

The poll body has banned barangay officials from being appointed official watchers of a duly registered major political party or any socio-civic, religious, professional or similar organizations of which they are members.

However, the National Federation of the Associations of Barangay Captains urged incumbent barangay officials to stick to their posts, perform their duties, and lead a registration drive to make sure nobody gets inadvertently disenfranchised.

Chairman Ramon H. Felipe Jr. urged all new and old voters to register in precincts located in public school houses nearest their residence on Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 6-7) and next Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 13-14) so they can vote in the Feb. 2 plebiscite and in the May 11 elections.

All existing voters lists have been nullified because they were found filled with inaccuracies and padded with non-existent or dead persons. (Turn to page 19, col. 2)

## REGISTRATION

(Cont'd from page 1)

he said.

He said any person who may not have reached voting age or attained the required period of residence may also be registered upon proof that he will qualify on the date of the plebiscite.

The law provides that "every citizen of the Philippines, not otherwise disqualified by law, 18 years of age or over, and has resided in the Philippines for one year and in the city or municipality where he proposes to vote for at least six months preceding the election, may be registered as a voter."

Felipe said any person seeking registration as a voter does not need a photo-

graph as this is no longer required. The identification card issued to him will suffice, unless he is challenged on voting day.

Every voter is required to accomplish four copies of an affidavit which requires, among others, a statement that he/she has not applied for registration in any other precinct, city or municipality.

The affidavit contains three specimens of the applicant's signature, clear and legible fingerprints, and will be subscribed and sworn to by him before all members of the board of election inspectors.

If a voter is challenged on voting day, he can present his voter's identification card as proof of his identity. If his identification card bears signs of tampering, his identity may be established by the specimen of his signature or by

the fingerprints in his affidavit in the book of voters.

No extra or duplicate copy of the identification card will be prepared and issued except upon express written authority of the Comelec.

Should the board fail to include in the voters list any person ordered by a competent court to be included, that person should present a copy of the court order. Upon identification, he will be allowed to vote even if he presents it on voting day.

In case the board fails to exclude any person ordered by the court to be excluded, that person will not be allowed to vote upon presentation by any interested party a certified copy of the exclusion order.

Felipe said the poll body expects to reduce the number of precincts after the so-called "flying voters" and other illegal registrants are finally excluded from the voters lists.

In prohibiting barangay officials from being appointed watchers, the Comelec cited Section 19 of the Omnibus Election Code which provides it would be unlawful for any barangay official to enter and stay inside any polling place except to vote.

Felipe said the Comelec in past political exercises had received numerous complaints of undue interference by barangay officials in the proceedings of the board, causing not only delay in the proceedings but also tension among the board members and voters.

He said it is an accepted fact that barangay officials have tremendous influence on their constituents and are in a position to apply pressure on members of the board of election inspectors thus affecting their sound judgment.

The Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) asked incumbent barangay officials in the country to stick to their posts and ignore orders for their relief.

Nura Petinea, president of the National Federation of the Association of Barangay Captains, said the removal of barangay officials is illegal since their term of office has not expired.

She urged barangay leaders "never to allow themselves to be harassed, pressured, or manipulated of the illegal and immoral activities connected with the plebiscite on the draft constitution."

MALACANANG  
Manila

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 50

PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR THE PLEBISCITE ON THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION, FOR THE PLEBISCITE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Provisional Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, a new Constitution shall be drafted by the Constitutional Commission and thereafter submitted to the people in a plebiscite;

WHEREAS, to ensure that the true will of the people will be reflected in the plebiscite, there is a need to annul the existing permanent list of voters and to call for a new registration of voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

a. General Provisions

SECTION 1. General Registration of Voters. - The existing permanent lists of voters in every city and municipality are hereby declared null and void. A general registration of voters shall be held throughout the Philippines before the plebiscite on the new Constitution in accordance with this Executive Order on such dates as the Commission on Elections may fix.

SEC. 2. List of Voters. - There shall be a list of voters in each city and municipality, with such additions, cancellations and corrections as herein provided

SEC. 3. Necessity of Registration. - In order that a qualified voter may vote in the plebiscite, he must be registered in the list of voters for the city or municipality in which he resides.

SEC. 4. Who may be Registered in the List of Voters. - All persons possessing all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a voter and who have complied with the requirements for the registration of voters shall be registered in the list of voters of the city or municipality where-in they reside. Any person who may not have attained on the date of registration the age or period of residence required may also be registered upon proof that on the date of the plebiscite, he shall have such qualifications.

SEC. 5. Board of Election Inspectors. - At least ten (10) days before the first day of registration of voters in accordance herewith, the Commission shall, directly or through its duly authorized representatives, constitute a Board of Election Inspectors for each precinct to be composed of a Chairman and two members, who shall all be public school teachers registered as voters of the city or municipality. Provided,

91

That in case of shortage of public school teachers, the Commission may appoint private school teachers, or other citizens of known probity and competence, who are registered voters of the city or municipality. The appointment shall specifically state the precinct to which they are assigned and the date of the appointment.

The members of the Board shall each receive a per diem of Fifty Pesos for each day of actual service rendered in the Board.

b. Registration of Voters

SEC. 6. Procedure in Registration. - Any person qualified to vote shall register with the Board of Election Inspectors of the precinct in which his residence is included on any of the dates fixed by the Commission on Elections under Section 1 hereof by accomplishing in four (4) copies a voter's affidavit in which he shall state the following data:

- (a) Surname, first name, middle name, if any and maternal surname in that order;
- (b) Date and place of birth;
- (c) Citizenship
- (d) Periods of residence in the Philippines and in the place of registration;
- (e) Exact address with the name of the street and house number or in case there is none, a brief description of the locality and the place;
- (f) A statement that the applicant has not applied for registration in any other precinct, city or municipality for this 1986 general registration of voters; and
- (g) Such other information or data which may be required by the Commission.

The voter's affidavit shall also contain three specimens of the applicant's signature and clear and legible fingerprints and shall be subscribed and sworn to by him before all the members of the Board.

The oath of the applicant shall include a statement that he does not have any of the disqualifications of a voter and he has not been previously registered in the precinct or any other precinct under this General Registration of Voters.

Before the applicant accomplishes his voter's affidavit, the Board shall apprise him of the qualifications and disqualifications prescribed for a voter as herein provided. It shall see to it that the accomplished voter's affidavit contains all the data therein required and that the applicant's specimen signatures, the prints of his left and right hand thumbmarks and the rest of his fingerprints are properly affixed in each copy of his voter's affidavit.

48

SEC. 7. Action by the Board. - Upon receipt of the voter's affidavit, the Board shall examine the data thereon. If it finds that the applicant possesses all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a voter, he shall be registered. Otherwise, he shall not be registered.

The name and address of each registered voter shall, immediately upon his registration, be entered in the proper alphabetical group in the list of voters. The voter's identification card duly attested by the Chairman of the Board shall be issued to the voter.

SEC. 8. Voter's Identification Card. - The identification card issued to the voter shall serve and be considered as a document for the identification of each registered voter: Provided, That if the voter's identity is challenged on the day of voting and he can not present his voter's identification card or his identification card bears signs of tampering, his identity may be established by the specimen signature, or the fingerprints in his voter's affidavit in the book of voters. No extra or duplicate copy of the voter's identification card shall be prepared and issued except upon express written authority of the Commission.

Each identification card shall bear the name and the address of the voter, his date of birth, sex, civil status and the precinct number where he is registered.

### C. List of Voters

SEC. 9. Preparation of List of Voters. - For the preparation of the list of voters as provided in this Executive Order, the Board of Election Inspectors of each precinct shall hold four (4) meetings on the date fixed by the Commission on Elections under section 1 of this Executive Order. At these meetings the board shall prepare in the alphabetical order of the surnames of the voters eight (8) copies of the list of voters who registered in the precinct.

SEC. 10. Closing of the List of Voters. - The Board of Election Inspectors shall also meet on the fourth (4th) Saturday immediately preceding the day of the plebiscite, for the purpose of making such inclusions, exclusions, and corrections as may be ordered by the courts, stating opposite every name so, corrected, added, or cancelled, the date of the order and the court which issued the same, and for the consecutive numbering of the voters registered in the election precinct.

Should the Board fail to include in the list of voters any person ordered by a competent court to be so included, the said person shall, upon presentation of a copy of the order of inclusion duly certified by the Clerk of Court and upon proper identification, even on the day of the plebiscite, be allowed by the Board to vote.

Should the Board fail to exclude from the list of voters any person ordered by the court to be so excluded, the Board shall not permit said person to vote upon presentation to it by any interested party of a certified copy of the order of exclusion.

93'

SEC. 11. Preservation of Voter's Affidavits. - A copy of the affidavit of each voter shall be kept by the Board until after the day of the plebiscite when it shall deliver the same to the Election Registrar together with copies of the list of voters and other election papers. The Election Registrar shall compile the voter's affidavits by precincts in the alphabetical order of surnames in a book of voters. The other two (2) copies shall be sent by the Board on the day after the last date for registration of voters to the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor and the main office of the Commission in Manila. The Provincial Election Supervisor and the Commission shall respectively file and preserve the voter's affidavits by cities and municipalities in the alphabetical order of their surnames. The fourth copy of the affidavit shall be given immediately to the voter as evidence of his registration.

SEC. 12. Provincial

There shall be a Provincial Central File on registered voters containing the duplicate copies of all approved voter's affidavits in each city and municipality in the province which shall be under the care and custody of the Provincial Election Supervisor. The applications shall be compiled by precincts in the alphabetical order of the surnames of the registered voters to make the file an exact replica of the book of voters in the possession of the Election Registrar.

Should the books of voters in the care and custody of the Election Registrar be lost or destroyed at a time so close to the plebiscite that there is no time to reconstitute the same, the corresponding book of voters in the provincial file shall be used during the plebiscite.

SEC. 13. National Central File of Registered Voters.

There shall also be a National Central File of Registered voters consisting of the triplicate copies of all approved voter's affidavits in all cities and municipalities, which shall be prepared and kept in the Central Office of the Commission. The applications in the National Central File shall be compiled alphabetically according to the surnames of the registered voters regardless of the place of registration.

SEC. 14. Columns in the List of Voters. - The list of voters shall be arranged in columns as follows:

- (a) In the first column, there shall be entered, at the time of closing of the list before the plebiscite, a number opposite the name of each voter registered, beginning with number one and continuing in consecutive order until the end of the list;
- (b) In the second column, the surname of the registered voter shall be written in alphabetical order followed by the first name, middle name, if any, and maternal surname, without abbreviations of any kind;
- (c) In the third column, the residence of such person with the house number, name of the street, sition and barangay, shall be entered.

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- (d) In the fourth column, the date of birth and periods of residence in the Philippines and in the city or municipality shall be entered;
- (e) In the fifth column, there shall be entered, on the day of the plebiscite, the number of the ballot given successively to each voter;
- (f) In the sixth column, the voter shall affix on the day of the plebiscite, his right thumbmark and under said mark his signature, which shall be the same as the signature, in his voter's affidavit;
- (g) And in the seventh column, the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Election Inspectors who handed the ballot to the voter.

It will be sufficient that the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh columns be filled in the copy of the list under the custody of any of the members of the Board of Election Inspectors who shall see to it that the thumbmark is affixed clearly.

SEC. 15. Certificate of the Board of Election Inspectors in the List of Voters. Upon the adjournment of each meeting for the registration of voters, the Board of Election Inspectors shall close each alphabetical group of surnames of voters by writing the dates on the next line in blank which shall be forthwith signed by each member, and, before adding the new name on the same page at the next meeting, it shall write the following: "Added at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting", specifying if it is the second or third meeting of the Board, as the case may be. If the meeting adjourned is the last one for the registration of voters, the Board shall, besides closing each alphabetical group of surnames of registered voters as above provided, add at the end of the list a certificate (a) whether or not corrections and cancellations were made in the list, specifying them, if any, and (b) specifying in words and numerals the total number of voters registered in the precinct as at the close of the registration period.

SEC. 16. Publication of the List. At the first regular office hour of the working day following the last day of registration of voters, the poll clerk shall deliver to the Election Registrar a copy of the lists certified to by the Board of Election Inspectors as provided in the preceding section; another copy, also certified and properly sealed, shall be sent to the Provincial Election Supervisor of the province by messenger; and another copy, likewise certified and properly sealed, shall be sent by registered mail special delivery with return card, to the central office of the Commission where the said copies shall be opened to public inspection during regular office hours. On the same day and hour, the poll clerk shall also post a copy of the list in the polling place in a secure place on the door or near the same at the height of a meter and a half, where it may be conveniently consulted by interested parties. The chairman and the two (2) other members of the Board shall each keep a copy of the list which may be inspected by the public in their respective residences or offices during regular office hours. Immediately after the meeting of the Board for the closing of the list, the member designated as the poll clerk shall also send a notice to the Election Registrar, Provincial Election Supervisor and the Commission in Manila regarding the changes and the numbering referred to in Sec. 10 hereof, to be attached to the copy of the list sent to them previously.

95

d. Administrative and Judicial Powers

SEC. 17. Challenge of Right to Register. - Any person applying for registration may be challenged before the Board of Election Inspectors on any registration day by any voter or by any member of the Board of Election Inspectors. The Board shall then examine the challenged person and shall receive such other evidence as it may deem pertinent, after which it shall decide by majority vote whether the voter shall be properly included in or excluded from the list. All challenges shall be heard and decided without delay, and in no case baying two (2) days from the date the challenge was made.

After the question has been decided, the Board of Election Inspectors shall give to the party challenged a brief certified statement setting forth the challenge and the decision thereon.

SEC. 18. POWER OF THE Board of Election Inspectors to Administer Oath and Issue Summons. - For the purpose of determining the right of applicants to be registered as voters in the list, the Board of Election Inspectors shall have the same power to administer oaths, to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum and to compel witnesses to appear and testify, but the latter's fees and expenses incident to the process shall be paid in advance by the party in whose behalf the summons is issued.

SEC. 19. Jurisdiction in Inclusion and Exclusion Cases. - The Municipal and Metropolitan Trial Courts shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all matters of inclusion and exclusion of voters from the list in their respective municipalities and cities. The decision of the Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Courts shall be rendered within ten (10) days after the filing of the petition and may be appealed directly by the aggrieved party to the proper Regional Trial Court within five (5) days from receipt of notice thereof, otherwise said decision of the Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court shall become final and executory. The Regional Trial Court shall decide the appeal within ten (10) days from filing and its decision shall be immediately final and executory. No motion for reconsideration shall be entertained by the Courts. Failure of the judges concerned to comply with the deadlines fixed in this Section shall subject them to administrative action.

SEC. 20. Petition for Inclusion of Voters in the List. - Any person whose application for registration has been disapproved by the Board of Election Inspectors or whose name has been stricken out from the list may apply, within fifteen (15) days after the last registration day, to the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court, for an order directing the Board of Election Inspectors to include or reinstate the list, together with the certificate of the Board of Election Inspectors regarding his case and proof of service of of notice of his petition upon a member of the Board of Election Inspectors with indication of the date, time, place and court before which the petition is to be heard.

96

SEC. 21. Voters Excluded Through Inadvertence or Registered With An Erroneous or Misspelled Name. - Any voter who has registered under this general registration of voters whose name has been inadvertently omitted from the list prepared for the plebiscite or who has been included therein with a wrong or misspelled name or address shall have the right to file an application within fifteen (15) days after the last registration day with the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court, for an order directing that his name be reinstated in the list or that he be registered with his correct name or address. He shall attach to such application a xerox copy of his voter's affidavit, together with proof that he has applied without success to the Board of Election Inspectors for such reinstatement or correction and that he has served a copy of the application to a member of the Board.

SEC. 22. Change of Name of Registered Voter. - Any previously registered voter whose name has been changed by reason of marriage or by virtue of a court order may request the Board of Election Inspectors during any of its meeting held under this general registration of voters that his registration in the list be recorded under his new name.

SEC. 23. Petition for Exclusion of Voters from the List. Any registered voter in a city or municipality or the Election Registrar, may apply at any time within fifteen (15) days after the last registration day with the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court, for the exclusion of a voter from the list of given precinct, giving the name and residence of the latter, the precinct in which he is registered, and the ground or grounds for the challenge. The petitions shall be sworn to by the petitioners and accompanied by proof of notice to the Board of Election Inspectors concerned and to the challenged voter.

SEC. 24. Common Rules Governing Judicial Proceedings in the matter of Inclusions, Exclusions, and Correction of Names of Voters. - (a) No petition for inclusion, exclusion, and correction of names of voters shall be received outside of regular office hours. (b) Notices to the members of the Board of Election Inspectors and to the challenged voters shall state the place, date and time in which such petition shall be heard, and such notice may be made by sending a copy thereof by registered mail special delivery with return card or by personal delivery or by leaving it in the possession of an identifiable person of sufficient discretion in the residence of the person to be notified or, in the event that the forgoing procedure is not practicable, by posting a copy thereof in a conspicuous place in the city hall or municipal building and in two other conspicuous places within the city or municipality, at least five (5) days prior to the date set for the hearing.

In the interest of justice and to afford the challenged voter every opportunity to contest the petition for exclusion, the court concerned may, when the challenged voter fails to appear on the first day set for the hearing, order that notice be effective in such manner and within such period of time as it may decide, which time shall in no case be more than four (4) days from the day the respondent is first found in the default.

(c) Each petition shall refer to only one precinct.

(d) No costs shall be assessed in these proceedings. However, if the court should be satisfied that the application has been filed for the purpose of harassing the adverse party and causing him to incur expenses, it may condemn the culpable party to pay the costs and incidental expenses.

(e) The decision shall be based on the evidence presented. If the question is whether or not the voter is real or fictitious, the non-appearance of the voter on the day set for hearing shall be prima-facie evidence that such voter is fictitious. In no case shall a decision be rendered upon a stipulation of facts.

(f) These applications shall be heard and decided without delay. The decision shall be rendered within six (6) hours after the hearing.

SEC. 25. Canvass to Check Registration. - After the plebiscite, the respective election registrars, with the assistance of their Provincial Election Supervisors shall conduct regular verification by mail or house to house canvass, or both, of the registered voters of any precinct for purposes of exclusion proceedings.

SEC. 26. Annulment of Lists of Voters. - Any book of voters not prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Order or the preparation of which has been effected by fraud, bribery, forgery, impersonation, intimidation, force, or any other similar irregularities or which list is statistically improbable may, upon verified petition of any other voter or by the Election Registrar, and after notice and hearing, or motu proprio by the Commission, when the list of voters has been prepared in a manner which is palpably irregular, be annulled by the Commission which shall then order a new registration of voters in affected precincts on a date or dates fixed by it: Provided, that no order ruling or decision of the Commission annulling a book of voters shall be executed within thirty (30) days before the plebiscite.

SEC. 27. Reconstitution of Lost or Destroyed Registration Records. - The Commission shall reconstitute all registration records which had been lost or destroyed. For this purpose, it shall be the duty of the Election Registrar concerned to report immediately to the Commission any loss or destruction of approved applications for registration in his custody. Such reconstitution shall be made with the use of the corresponding copies in the National or Provincial Central Files of registered voters: Provided, That if this is not feasible, the registered voter concerned may be summoned by the Election Registrar to effect such reconstitution by accomplishing a new application. Reconstituted forms shall be clearly marked with the word "Reconstituted."

The reconstitution of any lost or destroyed application for registration shall not affect the criminal liability of any person or persons who may be responsible for such loss or destruction.

98

SEC. 28. Examination of Registration Records. - All registration records in the possession of the city or municipal Election Registrar, the Provincial Election Supervisor, and the Commission shall, during regular office hours, be opened to examination by the public.

Law enforcement agencies shall, upon prior authorization by the Commission, have access to said registration records should the same be necessary to, or in aid of, their investigative functions and duties, subject to regulations promulgated by the Commission.

SEC. 29. Posting of List of Voters. - On the day immediately following revision day, the Board of Election Inspectors must post the FINAL list of voters in each precinct with each and every page thereof duly signed or subscribed and sworn to by the members of the Board of Election Inspectors and that failure to comply with this provision will constitute an election offense.

Any voter, upon formal request made to an Election Registrar, shall be entitled to a certified copy of the most recent list of voters in any precinct, municipality, or city or province, upon payment of a reasonable fee as may be prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 30. Applicability of Pertinent Provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 891. - The pertinent provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 891, otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines regarding precincts and polling places, Board of Election Inspectors, watchers, election offenses including penalties, preliminary investigation, prosecution, jurisdiction of courts, prescription, persons criminally liable, and other provisions, which are not in conflict with this Executive Order shall remain in full force and effect and hereby adopted as part hereof: Provided, That the forms and other papers necessary for purpose of this general registration of voters and plebiscite shall be printed under the supervision and control of the Commission: Provided, further, That the Commission may engage the services of any printing press and shall provide appropriate security measures for the printing, storage and distribution thereof.

SEC. 31. Appropriation. The amount of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE MILLION PESOS or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of the implementation of this Executive Order is hereby set aside out of the appropriation of the Commission on Elections in its current budget and savings, which shall both be automatically released by the Ministry of the Budget upon request of the Chairman of the Commission on Elections. In case of deficiencies, the funds herein provided shall be augmented from the Special Activities Fund intended for special priority activities authorized in the current General Appropriations Act, which shall likewise be automatically released upon similar request by the Chairman of the Commission on Elections.

99'

SEC. 32. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 33. Effectivity. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 20th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-six.

(SGD) President of the Philippines

By the President:

(SGD) JOKER P. ARROYO

100

Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
Manila

21

In Re : Adopting in principle the program design to computerize the voters' list in the Philippines.

P r e s e n t :

FELIFE, Ramon H., Jr. Chairman  
AFRICA, Leopoldo L. Commission  
YORAC, Haydee B. Commission  
BADOY, Anacleto D., Jr. Commission  
FLORES, Andres R. Commission  
RAMA, Dario C. Commission  
AGANON, Marcelino U. Commission

Fromulgated:

November 7, 1986

x - - - - -

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the voters' list mistakes, inaccuracies, padding dead persons, which circumstances threaten the integrity of the electoral process, legitimate vehicles for the expression of the voters' will.



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eign

WHEREAS, the traditional system of preparing the voters' list leads itself to the perpetration of the above irregularities and the situation will only worsen as the population of the country increases;

Whereas, the use of computer technology in the preparation and updating of the voters' list will greatly minimize the commission of irregularities and will ensure a clean list of voters;

Whereas, in line with the urgency of the need to use computer technology in the preparation of the voters' list the Commission on Elections has designed a program to computerize the voters' list and to maintain the same continuously.

101

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved:

1. To adopt, as it hereby adopts, in principle the program design to computerize the voters' list in the Philippines prepared by the Commission on Elections, the essential features of which are contained in the outline attached hereto and made an integral part hereof; and
2. To manifest, as it hereby manifests, to the National Government the necessity to support the program and to request the same through the appropriate agencies such as the National Economic and Development Authority for assistance in project sourcing/financing.

APPROVED this 5th day of November, 1986.

RAMON H. FELIPE, JR.  
Chairman

LEOPOLDO L. AFRICA  
Commissioner

HAYDEE B. YORAC  
Commissioner

ANACLETO D. BADOY, JR.  
Commissioner

ANDRES R. FLORES  
Commissioner

DARIO C. RAMA  
Commissioner

MARCELINO U. AGANON  
Commissioner

102

C.E. FORM NO. 1  
 (To be accomplished individually  
 in quadruplicate in the polling  
 place before the Board of Election  
 Inspectors during registration day.)

(TO BE COMPUTERIZED)  
**VOTER'S AFFIDAVIT**

NO. 0004150 M

**COPY FOR THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS**

CITY/MUNICIPALITY		PROVINCE	
BARANGAY		PRECINCT NO.	
NAME(Surname)		(First Name)	(Middle Name/Maternal Surname)
RESIDENCE: (House number/Street/Sitio or brief description of place of residence)		CITIZENSHIP: (If naturalized state date of naturalization)	CIVIL STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE
DATE OF BIRTH: (Month, Day, Year) □ □ □ □ □ □		PLACE OF BIRTH: (City, Mun., Mun. Dist., Province)	SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> MALE
PERIOD OF DOMICILE: (No. of years in the Phil.)		(No. of years in the City/Mun.)	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION OR WORK:
			SPOUSE: (If married)

I HEREBY STATE under oath that the preceding statements regarding my person are true; that I possess all the qualifications required and none of the disqualifications of a voter, and that I have not applied for registration, nor am I registered in any other precinct.

(If voter is illiterate or physically disabled) I hereby certify that I prepared this affidavit in accordance with the data given by the voter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voter's Signature

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on the date and place above written.

PICTURE  
 1" X 1"

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature over printed name of the person who assisted the illiterate/disabled person.  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAIRMAN

ACTION BY BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS:  
 APPROVED  DISAPPROVED (State ground/s)

RIGHT HAND				
Thumb	Index Finger	Middle Finger	Ring Finger	Small Finger
LEFT HAND				
Small Finger	Ring Finger	Middle Finger	Index Finger	Thumb

\_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAIRMAN  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 POLL CLERK  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MEMBER

Voter's specimen signatures:

## NAMFREL Remobilization Timetable for General Registration

<u>IMPT. DATES</u> AFTER CONF.	<u>OFFICIAL ACTIVITY</u>	<u>CHAPTER ACTIVITY</u>	<u>PERTINENT LAW</u>
		- Remobilization - "go and register" campaign - recruitment	
Dec 2	Posting of maps or precincts	- check w/ registrar - verify existence & /or suitability	- Sec. 149 - 155 of E.P. 881
Dec. 6	R D	- voters assistance center	- NAMFREL accreditation
7	E A		
13	G' Y	- pollwatching	
14	N S		
15	Posting of lists at polling places	: - house-to-house : verification	-Sec. 18 of E.O.# 50
:			
:	15 day period for exclusion & inclusion filing	: - documentation & : filing of exclusion : & inclusion	S - Sec. 19-24 E.O.# 50
29			
Dec. 30	Courts have 10 days from filing to rule on petition	: - chapter follow-up : on filed petitions	-Sec. of E.P. 881
Jan 8			
10	"Revision day" SEI revises list to incorporate inclusion & inclusion		- Sec. 10 of E.O.# 50
11	Posting of final lists of polling places	: - encourage voters to : check listing : full-blown info drive : on Constitution : encourage high turn- : out on plebiscite : finalize volunteer : recruitment/training	- Sec. 23 of E.O.# 50
	<b>PLEBISCITE DAY</b>	<b>- FULL MOBILIZATION</b>	



**Persons Punishable Under the Omnibus Election Law  
For Committing Prohibited Acts  
During Registration of Voters**

**As Reprinted From Sec. 261(Y), Article XXII of the Omnibus  
Election Code of the Philippines (B.P. Blg. 881)**

- (1) Any person who, having all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a voter, fails without justifiable excuse to register as a voter in an election, plebiscite or referendum in which he is qualified to vote.
- (2) Any person who knowingly makes any false or untruthful statement relative to any of the data or information required in the application for registration.
- (3) Any person who deliberately imprints or causes the imprinting of blurred or indistinct fingerprints on any of the copies of the application for registration or on the voter's affidavit; or any person in charge of the registration of voters who deliberately or through negligence, causes or allows the imprinting of blurred or indistinct fingerprints on any of the aforementioned registration forms, or any person who tampers with the fingerprints in said registration records.
- (4) Any member of the board of election inspectors who approves any application which on its face shows that the applicant does not possess all the qualifications prescribed by law for a voter, or who disapproves any application which on its face shows that the applicant possesses all such qualifications.
- (5) Any person who, being a registered voter, registers anew without filing an application for cancellation of his previous registration.
- (6) Any person who registers in substitution for another whether with or without the latter's knowledge or consent.
- (7) Any person who tampers with or changes without authority any data or entry in any voter's application for registration.
- (8) Any person who delays, hinders or obstructs another from registering.
- (9) Any person who falsely certifies or identifies another as a bona fide resident of a particular place or locality for the purpose of securing the latter's registration as a voter.
- (10) Any person who uses the voter's affidavit of another for the purpose of voting, whether or not he actually succeeds in voting.
- (11) Any person who places, inserts or otherwise includes, as approved application for registration in the book of voters or in the provincial or national central files of registered voters, the application of any fictitious voter or any application that has not been approved, or removes from, or otherwise takes out of the book of voters or the provincial or national central files of registered voters any duly approved voter's application, except upon lawful order of the Commission, or of a competent court or after proper cancellation as provided in Sections 122, 123, 124 and 125 hereof.
- (12) Any person who transfers or causes the transfer of the registration record of a voter to the book of voters of another polling place, unless said transfer was due to a change of address of the voter and the voter was duly notified of his new polling place.
- (13) Any person who asks, demands, takes, accepts or possesses, directly or indirectly, the voter's affidavit of another, in order to induce the latter to withhold his vote, or to vote for or against any candidate in an election or any issue in a plebiscite or referendum. It shall be presumed prima facie that the asking, demanding, taking, accepting, or possessing is with such intent if done within the period beginning ten days before election day and ending ten days after election day, unless the voter's affidavit of another and the latter are both members of the same family.
- (14) Any person who delivers, hands over, entrusts, gives, directly or indirectly his voter's affidavit to another in consideration of money or other benefit or promises thereof, or takes or accepts such voter's affidavit directly or indirectly, by giving or causing the giving of money or other benefit or making or causing the making of a promise thereof.
- (15) Any person who alters in any manner, tears, defaces, removes or destroys any certified list of voters.
- (16) Any person who takes, carries or possesses any blank or unused registration form already issued to a city or municipality outside of said city or municipality except as otherwise provided in this Code or when directed by express order of the court or of the Commission.

## NAMFREL GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION

### Voter's Assistance Center and Registration Period Activities

What we want to happen

During the voters registration period, we would like to:

- Assist qualified citizens to register and vote
- Recruit volunteers for NAMFREL
- Monitor and assess the conduct of the registrations in each city and municipality
- Make NAMFREL's presence felt by the community so as to generate support for NAMFREL. We therefore would like to be highly visible

What we need to do

Before Registration Day

1. Attend the briefing, to be conducted by your NAMFREL Volunteer School Chairman before the registration, to get detailed instructions on the ff:
  - Your responsibilities as a watcher during the registration days
  - Your specific election precinct assignment, and the territory it covers
  - Your time of reporting and shift of work
  - The location of the NAMFREL Voter's Assistance Center in your school/polling place
  - Your reporting procedures
2. Get from your NAMFREL Volunteer School Chairman your NAMFREL "Appointment of Watcher" Form.
3. Get also from him your NAMFREL ID, "Bantay ng Bayan" badge and T-Shirt (if available) which you will wear the whole day of registration
4. If possible, visit your polling place and specific election precinct assignment to familiarize yourself with your work area.
5. Read and familiarize yourself with Article XII, Sec. 113-148 on the Registration of Voters, par. 1-17 of Section 261 of Article XXII on Election Offenses of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines.
6. Develop a good working relationship with the COMELEC registrar, and school teachers assigned to our areas.
7. Set up a table at a conspicuous place in the registration/voting site. place a highly visible sign which would clearly identify us a NAMFREL Voter's Assistance Center.

## 01. REGISTRATION DATA

1. Before leaving your house to go to your election precinct assignment, MAKE SURE:

- \* That you are wearing your NAMFREL ID, "Lantay ng Bayan" badge, and (if available T-shirt)
- \* That you have with you your "Appointment of Watcher" form, the "Operation Complete Count" report form (if you are on the second shift), and this instruction sheet
- \* That you have a ballpen and notebook or paper

2. Report to your place of assignment at least half an hour before your designated work shift, and leave only half an hour after your work shift ends or until your replacement has arrived. Thus, the first shift reports at 8:30 a.m. and leaves at 12:30 p.m. and the second shift reports at 11:30 a.m. and leaves at 5:30 p.m. Be sure to brief the watcher of the following shift on the proceedings during your shift.

3. When the registration opens at 7:00 a.m., enter the voting center and present your "Appointment of Watcher" form to the EEI Chairman. Stay in the space reserved for watchers.

4. At the start of registration, take note of the EEI's announcement on the total number of Voters Affidavits issued to the EEI, and the corresponding serial numbers covered.

5. Refrain, as much as possible, from leaving your post. If you have to leave, notify the NAMFREL Voters' Assistance Center or your School Chairman.

6. Observe the registration process and note down any irregularity you may be able to spot.

- a) When a registrant enters the voting center, he has to give his name and exact address to the EEI. Make sure that the address he gives is within the territory covered by your voting center.
- b) If the EEI finds the registrant to be within the jurisdiction of the voting center, he is given four (4) copies of the Voter's Affidavit which he must fill up personally. After signing the forms, he affixes his fingerprints (all) and gives back the forms to the EEI.
- c) Upon examination by the EEI of the data in the affidavit and they find him qualified, and if there is no challenge, the registrant's name is entered in the List of Voters and he is given one (1) copy of his Voter's Affidavit before leaving the voting center.

7. As pollwatcher, you may CHALLENGE a registrant if you deem he is unqualified, before his name is entered in the List of Voters. Any challenge will have to be heard and decided by the EEI immediately and in no case later than three (3) days after the challenge is made. You MAY ALSO PROTEST any irregularity or violation of law which you believe has been committed by the EEI or any of its members. Any protest will have to be heard and decided by the EEI right there and then.

In both cases, be sure to get from the poll clerk afterwards a copy of the "Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Committee" which he is required to accomplish.

8. Fill up and send the attached report forms to your NAMFREL Chapter Chairman.

- REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED VOTERS
1. When is the general registration of voters for the plebiscite on the new Constitution?

Registration will be held on December 6, 7, 13 & 14 from 7:00 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon.

2. When shall I register on December 6, 7, 13 & 14?

All those who are qualified to vote because this is a new general registration.

3. Where should a qualified voter register?

A qualified voter should register for the permanent list of voters for the city or municipality in which he resides. (Sec. 115)

Actual registration will be done in polling place designated for the precinct wherein the voter's residence is located.

4. Who are qualified to vote in the snap election?

To be qualified to vote, the voter must be:

- 1) a citizen of the Philippines
- 2) 18 years old or older by Feb. 2, 1987
- 3) resident of the Philippines for at least one year, immediately prior to Feb. 2, 1987
- 4) resident of the municipality where he proposes to vote for at least six months immediately prior to Feb. 2, 1987.

5. I was born in January 5, 1939. Therefore, on December 1986 I still will not be 18 years of age. But on Feb. 2, 1987, on plebiscite day, I will be 18 years old. I have the other qualifications of a voter. May I register on December 6, 7, 13 & 14?

6. Yes, but you have to bring proof, like your birth certificate, to show that you will be 18 on Feb. (Sec. 116)

6. I moved from my hometown in Davao to stay permanently in Manila on July 20, 1986. May I register as a voter in Manila on December 6, 7, 13 & 14 even if I shall be at that time a resident of Manila for less than 6 months? I have the other qualifications as a voter.

Yes, but you have to show that by Feb. 2, 1987 you shall have resided in Manila for at least six months. An affidavit of your disinterested neighbors in Manila or of your landlord, or employer is proof enough. (Sec. 116)

7. Who are not qualified to vote?

The following are disqualified from voting:

- 1) Any person who has been sentenced to final judgement to suffer imprisonment for not less than one year. However, he automatically reacquires the right to vote upon the expiration of five years after he serves his sentence. Moreover, he is not disqualified if he has been granted a plenary or amnesty before the five years of waiting are up.
- 108

Any person who has been adjudged by final judgement by a competent court or tribunal of having committed any crime involving disloyalty to the duly constituted government such as rebellion, sedition, violation of the anti-subversion and firearm laws, or any crime against national security. However, he automatically regains the right to vote upon expiration of five years after serving his sentence. Moreover, he will not be disqualified if he was restored to his full civil and political rights before the five years of waiting are up.

3) Any person declared as insane or as incompetent by competent authority.

8. How does a person, who has all the qualifications become a registered voter for the 1986 snap elections?

- (a) On either December 6, 7, 13 & 14, 1986, he must go to the polling place designated by the COMELEC for the precinct of which he is a resident, anytime between 7 o'clock in the morning and 3 o'clock in the afternoon; he should bring with him proofs of his identity, such as residence certificate, SS or GSIS ID., driver's license, etc.
- (b) At the polling place, he must present himself to the board of election inspectors and ask for the form of a voter's affidavit. He should fill up 4 copies of the voter's affidavit form.
- (c) Before accomplishing the voter's affidavit, he may, if he wants, ask the board of election inspectors to tell him of the qualifications and disqualifications prescribed by law for a voter.
- (d) He should supply all the data required by the voter's affidavit form and affix his signature on all the four copies of the form. Then, he should affix clear and legible prints of his left and right thumbmarks on all the four copies.
- (e) He should then present the voter's affidavit accomplishing 4 original voter's affidavit thereof to the chairman of the Board of Election Inspectors and swear to the truth of what he has written.
- (f) The Board of Election Inspectors will examine the data supplied by the applicant for registration and, if it finds that the applicant has all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a voter, the applicant shall be registered and then issued a voter's identification card. His registration is then complete. (Sec. 126 & 129)

9. How can a person who does not know how to read or write or a physically disabled person execute a voter's affidavit?

The voter's affidavit of an illiterate or physically disabled person may be prepared by a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity or by any member of the board of election inspectors. The affidavit will be prepared on the basis of the data supplied by the illiterate or disabled person. (Sec. 127)

109

10. What can I do if I see a disqualified person apply for registration in any polling place?

Any member of the board of election inspectors, voter, candidate or watcher may on any registration day challenge any person applying for registration. (Sec. 13C)

11. What happens when an applicant is challenged?

The Board of Election Inspectors will examine the challenged person and receive evidence on the person's qualifications and alleged disqualification. Then, the Board, not later than two days after the challenge was made, decide to register the applicant or not. Both the person challenged and the person who made the challenge will be given by the board a brief certified statement setting forth the challenge and the decision.

12. If a disqualified person was able to register, how can he be prevented from voting in the plebiscite?

Any registered voter in the city or municipality may apply, up to Dec. 29, with the proper municipal or metropolitan trial court for the exclusion of a voter from the list, giving the name and residence of the challenged voter, the precinct in which he is registered and the grounds for the challenge. Assistance of a lawyer should be sought in bringing an exclusion case to court.

13. I am a qualified voter who has all qualifications and none of the disqualifications. What can I do if the Board of Election Inspectors refuses to register me?

On registration days, try to show proof of your eligibility. If the board persists in its refusal to register you, ask your lawyer to ask the municipal or metropolitan trial court, not later than Dec. 29, to order the board of election inspectors to include your name.

14. What are some prohibited acts related to the registration of voters?

The following persons violate the Omnibus Election Law for committing prohibited acts relating to the registration of voters:

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE  
EXCLUSION OF VOTERS FROM THE LIST OF VOTERS

WHO MAY FILE THE PETITION FOR EXCLUSION?

Any registered voter in a city or municipality may apply for the exclusion of voter/s from the list of voters of that city or municipality (sec. 142/BP 881).

WHEN MAY THE PETITION BE FILED?

At anytime, during regular office hours, from December 15, 1986 up to December 29, 1986 (secs. 142 of BP 881 and sec. 20, 23 of E.O. 50).

WHERE SHOULD THE PETITION BE FILED?

In the municipal or metropolitan trial court of the city or municipality whose list of voters is being contested (sec. 19; E.O. 50).

WHAT SHOULD BE FILED?

A petition with the following content and form:

A) Contents of petition

1. name and address of the voter/s sought to be excluded from the list (sec. 142, BP 881).
2. precinct in which said voter/s is registered (sec. 142);

Note: While a petition may have more than one voter, it cannot include more than one precinct (sec. 143 (c)).

B) Form of petition

1. Must be sworn to (sec. 142);
2. Must be accompanied by proof of notice to:
  - a. the Board of Election Inspectors, if already duly constituted; and
  - b. the challenged voters (sec. 143 (b)).

PROCEDURE FOR THE EXCLUSION OF VOTERS: (See also sec. 24 of E.O. 50)

1. Send notices to the members of the Board of Election Inspectors and to the challenged voter/s. The notice should state the place, day and hour in which the petition shall be heard (sec. 143 (b)). The date of hearing shall be within 10 days from the time the petition is filed (sec. 143 (g)). (Form attached).

There are three ways of sending the notices (sec. 143):

a. by registered mail -- Service by registered mail is complete upon actual receipt of the mail by the addressee; but if he fails to claim his mail from the post office within five days from the date of the first notice of the postmaster, the service is complete at the expiration of the five day period (Rule 13, sec. 8 of the Rules of Court).

The proof of notice in this case is an affidavit of the person mailing showing that he has sent the notice by registered mail; and the registry receipt issued by the post office. The registry return card should be filed immediately by the sender, or in lieu thereof the letter unclaimed together with the certified or sworn copy of the notice given by the postmaster to the addressee (Rule 13, sec. 10, of the Rules of Court).

b. personal delivery -- service by personal delivery is complete actual delivery (Rule 13, sec. 8, Rules of Court) to the person named or by leaving it in the possession of a person of sufficient discretion in the residence of the person named (sec. 143 (b)).

The proof of notice in this case consist of a written admission of the party served or the affidavit of the party serving, containing a full statement of the date, place and manner of service (Rule 13, sec. 10, R Rules of Court).

c. If neither of the first two is practicable, service may be made by posting a copy in a conspicuous place in the city hall or principal building and in two other conspicuous places within the city or municipality, at least ten days prior to the date set for hearing (sec. 143 (b)). Proof of notice in this case is an affidavit of the petitioner.

Do not neglect this aspect. This is in legal terms called due diligence. Proof of notice gives the court the right to decide on the matter.

2. File the petition within the prescribed time and in accordance with the form and content set by law. (Form attached).

3. The petition is then heard by the court on the date and place set for hearing. If the challenged voter fails to appear during the hearing, he is not automatically declared in default. The court may then order that notice be effected in such manner and within such period as the court may decide, which shall not be more than ten days from the date the challenged voter first failed to appear (sec. 143 (b)).

However, if the question raised by the petition is whether the challenged voter is real or fictitious, his non-appearance at the date set for hearing shall be prima facie evidence that the voter is fictitious (sec. 143 (f)).

4. If the challenged voter and the petitioner are both present at the hearing shall proceed without delay (sec. 143 (g)). Evidence presented by both sides. Also, any candidate who may be affected by the proceedings may intervene and present his evidence (sec. 143 (h)). The evidence presented shall be the basis for the decision. The decision shall be rendered upon a stipulation of facts (sec. 143 (i)).

5. Judgement -- the decision shall be rendered within ten days after the hearing. In any case, the decision shall be rendered no later than the day of the election and if the decision shall be rendered on that day, it shall be immediately final and executory (sec. 143 (j)).

However, decisions rendered before such day is appealable to the Regional Trial Court (RTC) (Sec. 138).

No motion for reconsideration shall be entertained (sec. 143 (k)).

6. Appeal -- The losing party may appeal the decision of the Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court to the RTC within five days after the receipt of the notice of the decision. The RTC shall decide the appeal within ten days from the time the appeal was received and the decision shall be final and executory. No motion for reconsideration shall be entertained (sec. 138).

7. Costs of the trial -- No costs shall be assessed against the petitioner if it is shown that the suit was filed to molest the adverse party (sec. 143 (d)).

If your chapter possesses names of people who you have evidence to believe are flying voters/registrants and know where they are attached, you should file exclusion proceedings. You cannot first find a lawyer in your own community to assist you.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/PROVINCE OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR  
(EXCLUSION/INCLUSION) OF  
PRECINCT NO. \_\_\_\_\_, CITY/  
PROVINCE OF \_\_\_\_\_.

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR: EXCLUSION/INCLUSION  
OF VOTERS

\_\_\_\_\_, Petitioner

X-----X

P E T I T I O N

Petitioner, (this court) respectfully states,

1. That I \_\_\_\_\_, the herein petitioner, is \_\_\_\_\_

(Identify your residence/registration, etc.)

2. That \_\_\_\_\_

(state basis for petition for inclusion or exclusion)

3. That consequently, being (disqualified/qualified) under the law to register as voter, their (exclusion/inclusion) from the permanent list of voters of the above-mentioned precinct is in order pursuant to the provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, Section 116, 117, and 118;

4. Wherefore it is respectfully prayed that due hearing and as Order be rendered by the Honorable Court, excluding, including \_\_\_\_\_ from the permanent list of voters of the voting center.

\_\_\_\_\_,  
(City/Province) (Date)

Petitioner on Court

Proof of Notice

Copy Furnished to

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attached registry card or  
signature of person receiving