



## **NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL)**

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# **PRESS RELEASE (May 9, 2016 at 10 am)**

Mandaluyong City – As of 8 am, Namfrel volunteers deployed nationwide have been sending reports to the Namfrel Operations Center Nationwide. So far, we have assessed that the opening of polls have proceeded smoothly with some minor isolated cases of disruptions.

### **Peace and Order**

There are no reported cases of violation and intimidation reported in Visayas. In Mindanao, however, the situation has started to turn volatile as there are cases of shooting reported in Maguindanao and Sulu where a shooting incident in Hamidhalin Elementary School in Jolo occurred, one person was wounded. A bombing incident also occurred in Maimbung area wounding one person.

In Batangas, Councilor bet in Tanawan, Batangas was shot dead, the details of which has been reported to the Philippine National Police.

### **Election Violations**

Namfrel volunteers from NCR witnessed campaigning happening inside the polling centers. Volunteers collected election paraphernalia distributed inside polling stations in Pilar Elementary School in Las Pinas, and in Marick Elementary School in Barga. Sto. Domingo in Rizal (Precinct no. 61-65).

Vote buying are occurring during Election Day. Alleged cases of vote buying were reported in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo; Valderama, Antique; and in Makati City.

### **Vote Counting Machine Malfunctions**

Namfrel is starting to receive cases of Vote Counting Machines (VCM) malfunctions. Observers from Batangas have reported two cases. In Florencia Masilungan Memorial Elementary School in Lipa, Batangas (Precinct no. 0132A, 0932B, 0133A, 0133B), the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) requested for a replacement unit as of 8:30 am. However, the replacement VCM did not also work. The voting was stalled and the BEIs are waiting for technicians.