



R

eports from chapters and volunteers

Northern Luzon

Reported by Namfrel **Abra** chairperson, Pura Sumangil (received by Namfrel regional director for Northern Luzon, Russel Ridad) at 1325H on Election Day – *Nagbibilihan ng boto* at **Sinapangan Elementary School, Bangued** [municipality] East. *Nag-aabot ng* sample ballot with P500 [bills] in *barangays Bulbulala and Toon* in **La Paz** [municipality].

Reported by Namfrel **Tarlac** chairperson, Elvira Gonzaga at 1850H on Election Day – BEI chair Glenda Malit of **precinct 222A** in **Matalahib Elementary School, Tarlac city** refuses to give to Namfrel the 6th copy of ERs. According to her, they were not given instructions regarding the 6th copy. She wants our volunteers to get the copy at the municipal hall. The said chairperson claimed that she still have to read the GI [General Instructions] to check if the instructions are there.

Action taken: “Our provincial chairperson referred this problem to the election officer who said that Comelec gave these instructions. Our provincial chairperson and the Namfrel school chair are still trying to convince the BEI chair.”

Reported by Namfrel **Tuguegarao, Cagayan** chairperson, Fr. Bernie Corpuz at 2253H on Election Day – “6th copy of the ER from *barangay Cagaytansa* is being picked up by the NPC representatives.”

Action taken: “Fr. Bernie sent his coordinator with the memorandum signed by the provincial chairperson that the 6th copy goes to Namfrel.”



NAMFREL			
as of 10 p.m., May 15			
No. of precincts: 7,705			
1	DE CASTRO	Ind.	564,256
2	FLAVIER	PPC	481,605
3	DRILON	PPC	456,313
4	OSMEÑA	PPC	449,154
5	ARROYO	PPC	446,817
6	MAGSAYSAY	PPC	429,651
7	VILLAR	PPC	427,229
8	PANGILINAN	PPC	424,006
9	ANGARA	PnM	410,979
10	RECTO	PPC	389,621
11	LACSON	PnM	369,669
12	EJERCITO-ESTRADA	PnM	363,177
13	HONASAN	PnM	358,361
14	DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO	PnM	342,718
15	TANADA	PPC	340,644
16	PUNO	PnM	335,560
17	ENRILE	PnM	333,493
18	MONSOD	PPC	293,707
19	PAGDANGANAN	PPC	288,906
20	MERCADO	PnM	282,277
21	HERRERA	PPC	274,955
22	YASAY	Ind.	207,776
23	VINZONS-CHATO	PPC	200,593
24	MADRIGAL	PnM	192,190
25	RASUL	PnM	192,161
26	TAMANO	PnM	121,658
27	CANOY	PnM	112,504
28	MORATO	Ind.	29,961
29	ADAZA	Ind.	27,348
30	NAVARRO	Ind.	25,958

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Reported by Namfrel **Quirino** coordinator, Fr. Lawrence Santos at 0530H, Day 1 after Election Day – The province-wide canvass was suspended due to a protest from a vice-gubernatorial candidate. The Namfrel count is not affected and is continuing.

Reported by Namfrel **Nueva Vizcaya** coordinator, Sr. Eden Orlino, SPC at 1730H, Day 1 after Election Day – “There are no Namfrel and Ppcrv volunteers in the town of **Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya**. Even the parish priest who’s our municipal chair is afraid to fulfill his duties. *Magulo raw kasi*. They will just rely on the 4th copy of the COC.”

National Capital Region

Report received by OQC La Salle radio communicator volunteer CTA231 at 1345H on Election Day – “Voters’ List containing 431 voters in **Rosario**

Elementary School [Pasay city] lost.”



Reported by Namfrel **Taguig** volunteer, Pearlito San Pedro at 1400H on Election Day – “Voter’s names in precincts are missing...voters who are registered on March 24, 1997 were ‘disregarded,’ so they cannot vote.”

Reported by volunteer Thelma Adap at 1500H on Election Day – for **precinct 72A of barangay Calumpang, Marikina** city, “Sometimes ‘yong pollclerk at third [member] *ay hindi nagta-tally tapos sasabihin lang ng isa sa kanila, dagdagan mo na or may utang ka* and vice versa”

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 1530H on Election Day – “**Novaliches King’s Point Chapel**...group of people claiming to be Namfrel volunteers wearing Namfrel IDs. Dist. 2 [volunteers]...Bong Manalaysay asked by a guy claiming to be head of Novaliches Namfrel – asking for 6th copy for the whole of Novaliches.”

Action taken: “Informed all the districts [in Quezon city] about [the] incident to prevent giving the 6th copy to unauthorized people.”

Report received by OQC La Salle volunteer Oscar Laboren Garcia in the morning of Election Day – “in one precinct in **barangay Paraiso, Quezon city, nabubura kaagad ang indelible ink.**”

Report received in the morning of Election Day for precinct **957-A, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati** city – Indelible ink easily washed away by detergent and alcohol.

Reported by Dr. Helen de Guzman, **Valenzuela** at 1550H on Election Day –

1. “Comelec registrar in Valenzuela roaming around **barangay Marulas** precincts this morning accompanied by armed men. They reported the matter to Comelec [Intramuros] who in turn spoke with the said registrar and stopped its activity (sic).
2. Valenzuela Dist. 1: *Ayaw papasukin yung poll watchers ng PPC* (People Power Coalition) this morning. They reported (sic) the incident to Comelec



national. They allowed the entry of PPC poll watchers but it was already afternoon.

3. **Barangay Coloong**: 60 persons *wala ng pangalan sa* Book of Registered Voters. *Ipinakita nila ang* Comelec voter's ID *nila pero hindi pa rin sila pinaboto.*
4. **Barangay Isla** – 50 voters (sic) *hindi nakaboto*
5. **Karuhatan** – *maraming hindi nakaboto.*

Reported by Namfrel **Manila District 5** volunteer, Mon Gareza at 1600H on Election Day – “[In] **Manila High School**, BEI refused to give 6th copy of ER to Namfrel. *Sa Ppcrv daw dapat sabi ng* principal.”

Reported by volunteer Sally Dilaw of **Taguig** at 1615H on Election Day – “6th copy not being given...(Namfrel) IDs not honored by Nenita Cayetano of **Ricardo Cruz Elementary School**...189 precincts.”

Action taken by Damaso Magbual, NCR chairperson – “Talked with Marcelino Mozo [Namfrel Taguig chairperson]. Problem resolved!”

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson Elsa Manansala at 1626H on Election Day – “Dist 1..**Mariblo barangay hall**...needs paraphernalia for counting (no tally board). **Pinagpala** needs materials/paraphernalia for counting.”

Reported by Bernadette Agcaoili of Adamson University at 1644H on Election Day – “[In] **Manila High School** [in] Dist. 5, [Namfrel] IDs weren't honored.”

Action taken: Call Manila chair to verify if Agcaoili and company were issued IDs to collect. Referred to [Manila] Dist. 5 [chairperson] Angie Uson but no answer. Called back Manila chairperson...only black and white (Comelec) IDs honored...*ok na.*”



Reported by volunteer Sr. Eryln Parlado of **Bahay Toro** (near Congressional Ave., between Shell and Caltex gas stations), **Quezon city** at 1700H on Election Day - "Voting Center too cramped and crowded; five precincts in one room; three precincts in one room. *Walang Ppcrv...need manpower.*"

Report received from *barangay* **San Isidro, Makati**, at 1700H on Election Day – "The ERs [marking] don't go through the 6th copy. You have to break the first copy to let the ink [mark] go through."

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 1740H on Election Day – *barangay* **Vasra, Quezon city, Mines Elementary School** principal Thelma Villamor insists to get all ERs before releasing to Namfrel. Volunteers said that they will allow only if the other copies of the ERs [for the political parties] will also not be released.

Action taken by Namfrel NCR chairperson Damaso Magbual – "Call Elsa [Manansala]. Do not agree. This will delay the count. Report the matter to Comelec Quezon city."

Reported by Namfrel **Manila** chairperson, Rolando Ingaran at 1800H on Election Day – There are Namfrel IDs without signature worn by political party watchers in **Manila districts 3 and 6**.

Reported by Namfrel **Valenzuela** volunteer, Nap David at 1815H on Election Day – "According to Pastor Francis Garcia of Valenzuela...6th copy of ER weren't given to Namfrel volunteer because Sen. Rene Cayetano ordered that these should be forwarded to Ms. Abesamis of Comelec and in turn given to Lakas-NUCD."

Action taken by Namfrel NCR chairperson Damaso Magbual – "Referred to NCR Comelec...to hotlines...to legal department...back to hotlines."



Reported by Namfrel **Manila District 5** chairperson, Angie Uson at 1820H on Election Day – “Fake Namfrel IDs were distributed by Katapat of mayor Lim...they were posing as Namfrel volunteers.”

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 1855H on Election Day – “**Payatas B Elementary School**, Dist. 2...Akbayan volunteers told BEI that their affiliation allows them to get 6th copy of ER. Namfrel Voting Center Managers didn't allow it.”

Reported by “CTA 281” of **precinct 1175-A, Pasig** at 1905H on Election Day - “Board of Election Inspector Leonorie Rodriguez, is not cooperating with the poll watcher...poll watchers cannot see the ballot being read.”

Progress report – From Theresa Ates – “Ok as of 1955H.”

From Carlota Chupungco – “Ok as of 2115H...they recounted all what the teacher read previously.”

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 1905H on Election Day – “Dist. 4, **Tatalon**...pseudo volunteers with 1998 [Namfrel] IDs were roaming around looking for ERs...contained as of now.”

Reported by **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 1930H on Election Day – “**Gen. Roxas Elementary School**, QC district 4...Atty. Teddy Fernandez, head of Ppcrv wants to get the 6th copy of the ER.”

Action taken by Namfrel regional director for NCR Nikki Pascual–
“Referred to Fr. Anton Pascual [of Ppcrv] at 2045H.”

Reported by **San Juan** volunteer, Jody Soner (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Oscar Laboren Garcia) at 2000H on Election Day – “Namfrel San Juan volunteers were advised by Comelec to claim the 6th copy at the gym of the **San Juan Municipal High School**. But the BEIs of the 39 precincts would not give the ERs.



Action taken: Advised chapter to see the election officer.

Reported by volunteer John Chua of **Quezon city, barangay Labrador, precinct 1125-A** on Election Day – “Precinct not using official ER forms...noticed by Namfrel volunteers.”

Action taken: “Resolved...ER forms are now being used.”

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala – “Dist. 4, **Manuel Roxas School**...Ppcrv wants to copy results of the elections.”

Action taken: “QC chair informed Ppcrv that they cannot have 6th copy.”

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 1930H on Election Day – “Alfred Mengulo, head of the group [is] using 1998 Namfrel IDs in order to get the ERs.”

Action taken: “Referred to Fr. Anton Pascual [of Ppcrv] at 2045H.”

Reported by Namfrel **Manila District 5** volunteer, Mon Gareza (received by Namfrel regional director for NCR, Nikki Pascual) at 2047H on Election Day – Teachers of **E. de los Santos Elementary School in Paco** *hindi nagpapasok ng* Namfrel...*sinarado ang kuwarta. Twice nag-brownout sa school lang. May clear sign of sabotage. Might be a conspiracy with teachers and principal. Instructions of the school principal, dapat nakabukas ang ballot box 'pag dineliver sa principal.*

Action taken: Mon will talk to the principal.

Report received by OQC La Salle volunteer Saron Passion at 2010H on Election Day – “The 6th copy was not carbonized clearly”



Action taken: “The poll chairman rewrote the figures and the words and countersigned each correction.”

Reported by volunteer, Jody Soner (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Olivia Paz) at 2030H on Election Day – “San Juan...watcher of Estrada is the one who is (sic) tabulating the vote at **Xavier School.**”

Reported by Namfrel **Parañaque** co-chairperson, Edgardo Tirona at 2040H on Election Day – At 1920H, brownout occurred in *barangay* **San Antonio**. Namfrel called Meralco to report [brownout] at 1945H. As of 2015H, there is still no power in the said area. At 2000H, another incident of brownout occurred at the elementary school near the municipal hall. Lights were out but the electric fans were working.

Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 2144H on Election Day – “**Old Balara Elementary School**...the principal, Feliza Beran, refuses to give the ER copies to Namfrel precinct volunteers even after showing her memos. She wants a call from Comelec to confirm that Namfrel is one of the citizens’ arms. The principal’s number is 951.1885.

Action taken: Atty. Jose Bernas, Namfrel counsel, spoke with the principal and she said everything’s okay...she will give the ERs to Namfrel.”

Report received from Namfrel **Manila District 5** volunteer, Victor Viray at 2157H on Election Day – Victor Viray is contesting the directive that allows for ballot boxes to be transported from the precincts unsealed as election returns may be altered if such directive [will be followed].

Report received at 2200H on Election Day – “There was a blackout in the entire voting center of **Pinaglabanan Elementary School [San Juan]**, but the surrounding area have electricity.”



Reported by Namfrel **Quezon city** co-chairperson, Elsa Manansala at 2211H on Election Day – “**Precinct Annex B, Payatas Elementary School, barangay Payatas...***kahit tinawagan na ng Comelec, ayaw ibigay yung 6th copy ng election returns. Dadalhin na yung gamit sa city hall. If possible, please send in the media to interview the principal, Dolores Leonor as well as the [Namfrel] Voting Center Manager.*”

Reported by Namfrel **Valenzuela** volunteer, Nap David on 2226H on Election Day – “[In] **precinct 410 to 427, Karuhatan East, Valenzuela**, the 6th copy is not being released to our Namfrel representatives. The people in the precinct are saying that it will be released in the municipal hall.”

Report from volunteer Matthew Tato of *barangay* **Concepcion I, Marikina** city at 2225H on Election Day – BEI [of] **precinct 551A-2** lost the 6th copy of the ER. Seemingly a Lakas-Nucd poll watcher took it. A certain Marilou took an envelope that may [have] contained the 6th copy.

Reported by Rolly Garcia of Semnet (Seminarians’ Network) at 2228H on Election Day – “There is a brownout at **Nagkaisang Nayon Elementary School, Capri, Novaliches, Quezon city**. Only the school has no electricity, all other houses and establishments around the school are normal.”

Reported by Namfrel **Marikina** chairperson, Pastor Benedicto Navarro at 2300H on Election Day – “The 6th copy ERs are *malabo* and they are having a hard time deciphering the election results (sic). However, in spite of this they are trying their best.”

Reported by Namfrel **Muntinlupa** volunteer Denise Mañosa, at 2320H on Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Nancy Poblete) – “**Lakeview and Cupang Elementary** School – still on-and-off power. Cause of power outage not yet confirmed.”



NAMFREL		COMELEC	
As of 7:25 p.m., May 22		7 p.m., May 22	
No. of precincts: 136,283 (67.80%)		Rank	
1	DE CASTRO 10,815,952	1	6,314,878
2	FLAVIER 7,959,068	2	4,403,063
3	OSMEÑA 7,871,644	3	4,376,872
4	MAGSAYSAY 7,624,820	4	4,317,899
5	DRILON 7,614,674	6	4,222,301
6	ARROYO 7,614,535	7	4,194,222
7	VILLAR 7,481,382	5	4,282,055
8	PANGILINAN 7,381,847	8	4,157,633
9	ANGARA 7,221,687	10	3,954,070
10	LACSON 6,987,520	12	3,848,482
11	IEJERCITO 6,940,385	11	3,881,535
12	RECTO 6,893,114	9	4,103,929
13	HONASAN 6,864,479	13	3,828,657
14	SANTIAGO 6,428,783	15	3,484,307
15	EIVRILE 6,388,195	14	3,571,157
16	PUINO 5,976,122	16	3,092,852
17	TANADA 5,512,708	18	2,947,527
18	MERCADO 5,006,207	17	3,069,799
19	PAGDANGANAN 4,782,542	19	2,575,896
20	HERRERA 4,701,452	20	2,473,494
21	MONSOD 4,581,431	21	2,448,252
22	RASILIL 3,433,297	23	1,711,301
23	MADRIGAL 3,363,366	24	1,694,483
24	CHATO 3,285,239	22	1,780,433
25	YASAY 3,195,816	25	1,691,391
26	CANOY 2,451,126	26	1,274,924
27	TAMANO 2,299,785	27	1,115,113
28	ADAZA 536,185	28	343,082
29	MORATO 456,163	30	207,907
30	NAVARRO 430,871	29	226,916

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Reported by Namfrel
Manila District 2
chairperson, Anthony Calma at 2320H on Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Chriselle Pascual) –Nieves Boco of **El Arcelino Elementary School** doesn't want to give the 6th copy to a Namfrel volunteer. She insists that a Namfrel volunteer come with her to go to Aquino Stadium for the 6th copy.

Action taken: "To call Nieves Boco, principal (2538697) to clear up things. Atty. Jose Bernas [Namfrel counsel] she said everything is *okay na*. Anthony Calma just spoke with her. She said the ER said 'citizens' arm' not Namfrel that's why she did not give the ERs to us."

Reported by volunteer Jojo of **Malabon** at 0020H, Day 1 after Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer



Ronnie Pablo) – “*Nagkakaproblema sila sa ER. Yung iba dumarating local [ER] lang ang laman. Walang senatorial at party list. Yung iba naman party list [ERs] lang ang laman.*”

Report received by OQC La Salle volunteer Jean de Castro at 0115H, Day 1 after Election Day – “**E. delos Santos School, Manila**...*barangay* captain is roving in the precincts and is instructing teachers, which he is not supposed to do. He can only watch and not interfere.”

Reported by Leo Trandrup and Rommel Gonzales of **Taguig** at 0320H, Day 1 after Election Day - “*Kagawad ni Mayor Papa nag-insist na dalhin ang ballot box kahit hindi pa tapos [ang counting].*”

Action taken: “*Walang ballot boxes na nailabas dahil sa mga watchers and volunteers na nakabantay doon.*”

Reported by Namfrel **Valenzuela** volunteer, Nap David on 0615H, Day 1 after Election Day - “At around 2330H on May 14, 2001 [Election Day], a certain group of people, of unrecalled names stating that they are from DILG, arrived with blank form of results (Tabulation Sheets). They are asking for election results and stated that they will be back in the afternoon of May 15, 2001.”

Action taken: “Called Ms. David and informed her not to give any results until properly checked with DILG and ask assistance from proper authorities. Advised to seek assistance with the Comelec.”

Reported by Namfrel regional director Danilo Pilar, Day 1 after Election Day – In **Parañaque city**, at a little past 1800H, unidentified men escorted by Marines brought our a ballot box from the canvassing area presumably containing election documents and loaded it in a vehicle identified to be that of [mayoral candidate] Joey Marquez. Later, a box (later discovered containing election returns) was attempted to be brought out, disguised as garbage, but prevented by angry Olivarez [mayoral candidate] supporters.



Report from Namfrel **Pasay city** chairperson, Angel Gonzales, Jr. at 2030H, Day 1 after Election Day – “At 1930H, supporters of losing candidates Greg Alcera and Ding Santos have rallies in front of the canvassing area near Cuneta Astrodome. Around 1,000 supporters are in the area and may threaten violence. Police have been summoned [and the] situation is under control at the moment.”

Report from Namfrel **Valenzuela** volunteer, Nap David of at 1130H, Day 2 after Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Mitch Hernandez) – “Some ERs have no names of local candidates but have figures of total votes.”

Report received by OQC La Salle volunteer Yvonne Tabanes at 1730H, Day 2 after Election Day – Missing congressional **ER 84010588** of **precinct 593A/594A** of *barangay Concepcion I, Marikina city*; missing local ER for **precinct 561A-1** from the same *barangay*.

Report received at 0328H, Day 3 after Election Day - Unreadable congressional and party list ER for **precinct 208A/210A-1** of *barangay Malanday, Marikina city*.

Report received at 1423H, Day 3 after Election Day – **Pasay** Comelec canvassing will resume at 1400H today with the sorting of ERs. Actual canvassing [will start] late this afternoon. The Comelec and Namfrel had to stop operations last night as supporters of the two losing candidates rallied outside the offices of both operations, throwing stones at their [tally] boards. At this point security is their main concern as news have been spreading that the rallyists would come back tonight with more people supporting them.

Report from Namfrel **Taguig** chairperson, Marcelino Mozo at 1317H, Day 5 after Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Ronald Venida) – “Comelec is tense due to harassment on both camps. Comelec wants to transfer counting in Intramuros, although counting is 100% complete. They don’t want to declare winner. Marines are (sic) present already in the vicinity. Sun Cable/Sun Vision



covered (sic) the updating due to unfavorable (sic) results against the incumbent, proclamation is being withheld.”

Letter from Namfrel **Taguig** chairperson, Marcelino Mozo at 2045H, Day 5 after Election Day – “Please be informed that as per request of Ms. Rodin (Comelec Head – Taguig), we are delaying the release of the results to prevent tension from rising between the camps of Mayor Papa and Freddie Tinga. Also, they fear for their safety as they are already being harassed from both sides. We shall release information as soon as they have transferred to [Comelec] Intramuros.”

Southern Luzon

Reported by Namfrel **Batangas** coordinator, Wilfredo Bleza at 0700H on Election Day – **Balete** [Batangas] mayoral candidate Pamplona was wounded by gunshot last night.

Letter of Namfrel **Rizal** chairperson Jose Roland Moya to Comelec executive director Mamasapunod Aguam on Election Day

I would like to bring to your attention the refusal of certain Mr. Catolos, principal of **Sampaloc Elementary School in Tanay, Rizal**, to allow Namfrel to establish either a base of its operations or a voters’ assistance desk inside the premises of the voting center. The matter was brought to my attention by one of our coordinators in Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal at around 2100H today, Sunday. I immediately contacted Mr. Catolos by telephone to inquire about the reasons for his refusal and to appeal for a reconsideration of his decision. Mr. Catolos reiterated his objection to our request averring that:

- a. The establishment and maintenance of a base of operations by Namfrel within the voting center “will disrupt” the conduct of the elections.



- b. The presence of Namfrel volunteers should be restricted inside the precincts. Thus, Namfrel or any other citizens' accredited arm should not be allowed to field volunteers anywhere else inside the polling place.
- c. Setting-up of a voters' assistance desk inside the polling place is no longer necessary as the voter's list are already posted in the entrance of the various precincts.

I would like to believe that the reasons for Mr. Catolos refusal to grant the aforementioned request of our chapter in Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal are untenable for the following reasons:

- a. The establishment of a base of operations within the voting center, far from being disruptive would in fact ensure an efficient coordinated discharge of our functions. The absence of one will mean that our precinct volunteers will have difficulty locating the voting center manager and assistant voting center manager. While we maintain chapter headquarters, it is highly desirable to likewise establish a more or less permanent presence in the polling place while the elections are [in] progress so our precinct and roving volunteers would know where to go in the event they need to consult with their voting center managers. It should also serve as a place where food and drinks will be initially brought prior to distribution to our volunteers. More importantly, this is the place where the 6th copy of the election returns received from the BEI chair will be received, accumulated and finally transmitted by our voting center managers to a designated tabulation center in the municipality or city. The base of operations suggested by our chapter in Sampaloc, Tanay is the grandstand inside the school. It is separated from the main school building by a firewall. In no way will the free flow of human traffic be unduly hampered. We can assure Mr. Catolos that our volunteers are highly responsible individuals.



- They would not tolerate any situation that will disturb or disrupt the conduct of the elections in his school in any manner whatsoever.
- b. We might be mistaken, but perhaps the rendition of voters' assistance by the citizens' arm in the polling place would entail fielding volunteers even outside the precincts especially in the voters' assistance desk.
 - c. The establishment and maintenance of a voters' assistance desk would serve a useful purpose. It would help decongest the entrance of the precincts. As the voters' enter the polling place, they could right away search or verify the number and location of their polling precincts in the voters' assistance desk where copies of the voters' list secured by the citizens' arm from the local municipal offices will be made available. Volunteers will be present in the voters' assistance desk to guide the voters through the pages and direct or in certain cases, accompany them to where their precincts are located.

We hope that the issues we raised will merit your attention and immediate disposition. In requesting a base of operations inside Sampaloc Elementary School, our chapter's main objective is efficient, coordinated, and orderly discharge of its responsibilities and mandate as part of an organization given accreditation by Comelec as one [of its] accredited citizens' arm in the May 14, 2001 elections.

Reported by Namfrel **Cavite** chairperson, Fr. Ferdinand Quiambao at 1300H on Election Day – “Two grenades exploded in **Alolod Elementary School** in **Indang, Cavite** at 0300H. No one was hurt. Two grenades were found in **Indang Elementary School** at 1230H.”

Reported by volunteer Maricel Limjolo at 1815H on Election Day – **Rizal** Namfrel chairperson Roland Moya reported that a black-out occurred at 1645H in the towns of **Binangonan, Teresa, Cordona** and a portion of **Morong** until the time of this report. The whole of *barangay* **Boso-boso in Antipolo** is without



electricity since morning. **Baras** stopped counting due to the blackout that occurred 15 minutes ago.

Reported by Namfrel regional director Danilo Pilar at 1740H on Election Day – “John Abejuro, provincial coordinator of **Albay**, reported that the [volunteers of the] municipality of **Sto. Domingo** informed him [of] the case of the 6th copy of ERs that were ‘carbonless’ [without ‘carbon’ and not making an imprint].”

Action taken: “We already advised Albay to use PTF [Precinct Tally Forms] and attach [it to] the blank ER.”

Reported by Namfrel **Batangas** coordinator Wilfredo Bleza (reporting for **Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro**) at 1850H on Election Day – “Mr. Montenegro, candidate for the mayoral position, was shot dead. Two days ago, one of his supporters was also shot dead.”

Reported by Namfrel **Masbate** volunteer, Filemon Payte (through Namfrel regional director Danilo Pilar at OQC La Salle) at 1901H on Election Day – “Armed goons intervened in the election process in **Uson, Masbate** at about 1600H.”

Report received by Namfrel regional director for Southern Luzon Paolo Maligaya at 1617H on Election Day – Estimated 38 voters not in the voters list in **Gen. Nakar, Quezon**, and one *barangay* (100 plus voters) in **Infanta, Quezon**. They were voters in 1998.

Reported by Namfrel **Laguna** coordinator, Kelly Beltran at 2310H on Election Day – Some precincts have no lighting. Lighting in [the municipalities of] **Cabuyao** and **San Pablo** are on-and-off. There were two lady flying voters **Alaminos**. They are now under police [custody].

Reported by Namfrel **Palawan** chairperson Tes Cantillo at 1745H, Day 1 after Election Day – “Leonisa Borromeo, 28 years old, native of Dagupan [in] Tondo,



Manila, presently residing at Sitio Campo *barangay* Poblacion was caught voting under the name of Maria Teresa Decolongon in precinct 33A, Taytay Elementary School in Taytay, Palawan. She filled up official ballot number 0016418.”

Report from **Camarines Sur** - No election returns were received from 13 municipalities, namely: **Baao, Cabusao, Canaman, Del Gallego, Libmanan, Lupi, Magarao, Pamplona, Pasacao, San Fernando, Sipocot and Simura**.

The towns and municipalities where the SOVP and COCs were not given to Namfrel in spite of request and notification to the Comelec: **Baao, Balatan, Bato, Bombon, Camaligan, Lagonoy, Magarao, Milaor, Minalabac, Naga city, Ocampo, Presentacion, San Jose, Siruma, and Tinambac**.

Visayas

Report from Namfrel **Leyte** on Election Day (received by Namfrel executive director, Telibert Laoc) – “**Matag-ob** [Southern Leyte] and **Pastrana** [Leyte] – BEIs did not release any of the ERs, not even to the political parties. Volunteers waited for the COC and SOV. There is something fishy with Southern Leyte.”

Reported by Namfrel **Antique** chairperson, Sally Tejares, at 2200H on Election Day – Mrs. Gorero, a BEI chair, of **Hamtic, Antique** refused to give the 6th copy. No reasons were cited.

Reported on Election Day by volunteer Leah Polo of **Jaro, Leyte, barangay II, precinct 11-A** - BEIs refused to give ER (serial number 21180029) in spite of presentation of valid identification card by the Namfrel volunteer.



Reported by Namfrel **Matag-ob, Leyte** chairperson, Engr. Angelo Pastor at 1800H, Day 1 after of Election Day (message received by OQC La Salle volunteer Ma. Concepcion Calimon at 1555H, Day 2 after Election Day)– “One of the

 NAMFREL National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections			
Partial unofficial results as of 4:22 p.m.			
RANK	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
1.	DE CASTRO, NOLI	(Ind)	10,557,244
2.	FLAVIER, JUAN	(PPC)	7,742,508
3.	OSMEÑA, SERGIO III	(PPC)	7,622,950
4.	MAGSAYSAY JR., RAMON	(PPC)	7,399,585
5.	ARROYO, JOKER	(PPC)	7,396,128
6.	DRILON, FRANKLIN	(PPC)	7,376,490
7.	VILLAR JR., MANUEL	(PPC)	7,252,191
8.	PANGILINAN, FRANCIS	(PPC)	7,166,265
9.	ANGARA, EDGARDO	(PNM)	7,037,047
10.	LACSON, PANFILO	(PNM)	6,620,287
11.	EJERCITO, LUISA	(PNM)	6,776,781
12.	HONASAN, GREGORIO	(PNM)	6,708,574
13.	RECTO, RALPH	(PPC)	6,696,505
14.	SANTIAGO, MIRIAM	(PNM)	6,264,755
15.	ENRILE, JUAN PONCE	(PNM)	6,235,605
16.	PUNO, RICARDO	(PNM)	5,741,432
17.	TAÑADA, WIGBERTO	(PPC)	5,361,333

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 21 May, p. 1

employees of the Comelec municipal office just implemented a two year-long order of the municipal election officer to discard and burn the ballot boxes of 1998 which triggered the ire of the [supporters] of mayoralty candidate Henry Laurente, and caused tension among them and among the public. [As a result] the municipal counting was stopped at 0900H and just resumed at early afternoon.”

Action taken:

“Reported the incident to the Namfrel provincial chair [who] reported to the national office of Namfrel and [also] sought the assistance of

the PNP through major general Yorro of the Regional command for security [of the place].”



Reported by Namfrel **Tacloban, Leyte** volunteer, Lilia Palcon at 0500H, Day 1 after Election Day (message received by OQC La Salle volunteer Ma. Concepcion Calimon at 1555H, Day 2 after Election Day) – “Guido Danilo refused to give the ER to the ‘Namfrel Deputy Authorized by Comelec to collect the 6th copy of the Election Return’ in spite of presentation of valid identification cards by the Namfrel volunteer. [The reason given was that] the Namfrel Volunteer will be the one to get [the ER] at the Comelec office.”

Action taken: Called the Comelec office but the city election officer is busy with the counting of votes.

Report from Namfrel **Rizal** provincial chairperson, Roland Moya, at 0152H, Day 1 after Election Day – At about 2100H of May 14, Namfrel Taytay volunteer Edwin San Mateo was found lying along the floodway with abrasions and lacerations in some parts of his body. According to an account from a volunteer from Namfrel Angono, Mr. San Mateo’s Kawasaki [motorcycle] hit a road crater and was thrown off his bike. This account is based on the statements of one witness Jeffrey Gallo, a tricycle driver, who also brought San Mateo to the Angono hospital. Doctors advised San Mateo to remain in the hospital for observation of his head injuries. He had a fractured shoulder and a deep wound on his right eyebrow. His wife, some relatives, and fellow Namfrel Taytay volunteers were with him at the hospital. We at Namfrel Rizal [province] are requesting for cash donations to assist in shouldering the cost of medication and hospitalization.

Reported received by OQC La Salle volunteer Lito Domitorio at 1945H, Day 1 after Election Day – “There is practically a breakdown in reporting from the whole province [of **Capiz**] because the BEIs will not turn over the 6th copy [of the ER] to Namfrel. Canvass from **Panit-an** [municipality] and **Maayon** [municipality] town [were] transferred to [the] capitol in Roxas city. Comelec **Pontevedra** [municipality] has been barred by the townspeople from going to the capitol. Fr. Billones [provincial chairperson] and Fanny Fortez [provincial coordinator] have been exhorting Namfrel volunteers to insist on their duties.



Reported by Namfrel Chair of **Aklan**, Virgilio Baustista at 0815H, Day 2 after Election Day – Precinct is currently under the control of a candidate. The ERs in that precinct weren't given to Namfrel volunteers.

Reported by Namfrel **Matalom, Leyte** municipal chairperson Roger Agaton, Day 2 after Election Day –I regret, I cannot retrieve the ERs from the Ppcrv people. My appointment as municipal chairman was not recognized by them in spite of my proper coordination and involvement with them. Their loyalty is based on the diocesan mandate by Fr. Bobong Golo. I visited his office at the chancery last Wednesday (May 9) but I was not able to contact him personally, so I confer[ed] this matter [with] one of his staff. Fr. Golo did not inform his staff regarding my role, so the ERs were not given to me. It is still under the custody of the Ppcrv people in the municipality of Matalom.

Reported by Namfrel **Buraen, Leyte** volunteer, Jaime Exconde at 0100H, Day 2 after Election Day – At around 0105H there was a misunderstanding between the municipal election officer and some supporters of the candidates. The EO decided to stop the canvassing and resume in the morning at 0800H. Supporters refused.

Action taken: I commented that the canvassing should continue because there is still time and some supporters are still around and in the first place it was a minor problem. We prayed and continued with the canvassing.

Inside the *Sanggunian Bayan* Hall, a member of the BEI and a supporter of Juanito Renomeron exchanged harsh words and almost got into a fistfight.

One ballot box was opened (it was not intentional maybe because the receivers might have overlooked this matter) and some supporters [interpreted such incident as an attempt to make] alternations on the ERs.



Action taken: To clarify the issue of alterations or tampering on the ballot box by opening the box and canvass the ERs, [we] let them borrow the sealed 6th copy [of the ER of Namfrel] until [the matter] was settled.

Reported by Namfrel **Baybay, Leyte** chairperson, Ma. Aurora Teresita Tabada, Day 1 after Election Day (message received by OQC La Salle volunteer Ma. Concepcion Calimon at 1555H, Day 2 after Election Day) – “This is with regard to the conduct of election in the municipality of Baybay, Leyte. The following were observed yesterday.

1. Vote buying was widespread, systematic and proof was demanded from the voters. According to reports amounts ranged from P100-500. In some instances, voters who presented proof of their vote (in most cases using carbon paper) were given an additional P100. Five voters were caught with the carbon paper while voting.
2. Many names were not found in the voters’ list especially transferees. Upon instruction of the provincial election supervisor, voters not found in the list were allowed to vote provided [their names] were found in the 1998 list.
3. BEIs in three precincts forgot to let their voters sign the VRR [Voter Registration Record].
4. Many precincts did not have any election returns when the counting started. According to the municipal treasurer, 32 precincts were not provided with ERs because the supplies from the Comelec were also lacking.
5. The canvassing of election returns has been postponed pending the arrival of an election officer. The present OIC election officer is only authorized to collect the ER and ensure the safety of the ballots boxes.

Regarding the Namfrel operations, as of 0700H of May 16, we have tallied 82% of the election returns.



Volunteer Francisca Pinon of *barangay* **Tabunok, Palompon, Leyte** reported on Day 3 after Election Day that the BEIs released the 6th copy of the election return a non-Namfrel representative.”

Reported by Namfrel **Tacloban, Leyte** chairperson, Angelito Lim, Day 4 after Election Day – “Leyte province has two cities, Tacloban in the eastern part facing Samar and Ormoc in the west, facing Cebu. Tacloban is considered as the trading center of Eastern Visayas and is the near of government of the province. Tacloban is composed of 138 *barangays* with 38 voting centers for the 485 precincts with total registered voters of 79,915.

The election was generally peaceful though there were reports of alleged vote buying by practically all candidates. Voters’ turnout could be 75% to 80% more or less. Problems encountered by the Operation Quick Count could be generalized into:

1. The 6th copy of the election returns are almost illegible, lacked information, with some pages missing.
2. Counting at precinct level was quite slow; some stopped and resumed only the following morning.
3. Some BEIs refused to give the ERs to the authorized volunteers. Picking up the ER envelopes at the Comelec further delayed the tabulation.
4. Volunteers were not as many as last 1998 elections due to the delay in accreditation and organization.

Some ERs that were not given at the precincts could not be retrieved from the Comelec office claiming they have [already] disposed all [ERs] that were given [to them] by the BEIs. It is observed that the Comelec does not account for these documents as they can always claim that these envelopes were already taken at the precinct level. The claimants like the Namfrel, the dominant majority party and the dominant minority party are the ones sorting out these envelopes at the Comelec office.



The transmittal of the certificate of canvass from the city board of canvassers will be delayed due to the suspension of the canvassing as petitioned by one of the local candidates. Suspension of the canvassing was reportedly for 10 days. Only by then will canvassing resume. Because of this, some candidates have started requesting for the local Namfrel's assistance. Shipment of the 6th copies of ERS to Namfrel La Salle Greenhills will therefore be deferred until the settlement of the aforementioned issue."

Reported by Namfrel **Leyte** volunteer, Angelo Pastor, Day 4 after Election Day – There is no COC for [the municipality of] **Matag-ob**. The canvassing was stopped as per order of Comelec because of mob protest from opposition parties because the incumbent was leading. Municipal canvass will resume on May 23, 2001 at the provincial Comelec office.

Reported by Namfrel **Biliran** volunteer, Lilia Palcon at 2000H, Day 4 after Election Day – "BEIs refused to give the ER to the 'Namfrel Deputy Authorized by Comelec to Collect the 6th copy of the Election Return' in spite of presentation of valid identification card/s by the Namfrel volunteer. The BEI chair Carmencita Onggiu gave the ERs of **Calubian** [municipality] to BEI assistant Jolibeth Ong and brought the ballots boxes to the provincial canvass in Naval. The COC was given to me. No ERs from **Culaba** as of this date."

Reported by Namfrel **Iloilo** chairperson, Arturo Salazar (received by Namfrel regional director Martha Castro) at 0940H, Day 5 after Election Day – "The Comelec obtained from him photocopies of the SOVs and MCOCs for their provincial tabulation. What bothers him is that even though it is already well-known [publicized] that these SOVs and MCOCs were erroneous, the Comelec continues to tabulate/consolidate [from] these results. **He has evidence that Namfrel's 6th copies of the ERs seem to be intentionally rendered unreadable. He has in his possession 7th copies [of the ER] which are readable while the 6th copies are not.**



From Walberto Honey, chairperson of **Northern Samar** on 19 May, Day 6 after Election Day

1. The serial number of election returns for local positions and election returns for national positions intended for the same precinct bear different serial numbers.
2. Number of voters and ballots in the election returns are missing.
3. There is miscounting of votes and there are errors in the reflecting tallies to figures and figures to words.
4. A third member of the BEI of one precinct is at the same time a poll clerk of another.

Reported by Namfrel **Eastern Samar** coordinator, Bob Dylan Ejem at 1700H, Day 11 after Election Day – There were no election returns (6th copy) forwarded to Namfrel Eastern Samar ... only the COV was furnished to the provincial chapter. The five missing election returns were not forwarded to the provincial headquarters. There were discrepancies in the figures in the COC.

Reported by Namfrel **Iloilo** chairperson, Arturo Salazar, Day 7 after Election Day

To: Telibert Laoc/Jose Concepcion Jr.

Subject: ER quality of COC or copy of Namfrel in general

Experience of past and present elections have demonstrated that copies [of election returns] for Namfrel have always been inferior to the other copies.

After consultation with credible and knowledgeable [persons in the] printing sources, we were informed that if the [chemical used for the] carbonless copies were expired, then the selective sabotage of Namfrel will have succeeded.



Reported by Namfrel **Eastern Samar** provincial chairperson, Onesimo Lumactod, Jr., on 29 May – Elections were conducted in some parts of the municipality of **Can-avid** due to insufficient election materials and paraphernalia. The provincial Comelec has asked the Comelec *en banc* for a date on which to hold the special elections.

Mindanao

Reported by **Zamboanga city** volunteer, Alber Hussin at 1535H on Election Day – “Teachers reported that they don’t have ERs and keys to the ballot boxes were missing. Tally sheets are also missing.”

Action taken: At 1430H called Comelec that replied that it’s beyond their control since all election materials were given to the teachers already. At 1930H, Comelec sent them ERs and keys. BEI used blackboard in lieu of the tally sheet as witnessed by Namfrel volunteers.

From Namfrel **Sultan Kudarat** chairperson, Hermie Ferolino at 1645 on Election Day – “Ballot boxes for **Isulan, Sultan Kudarat** have been labeled as Maguindanao causing some confusion and apprehension to voters and some BEIs. This may be due to a mistake and confusion since Sultan Kudarat is the name of a municipality (in Maguindanao) and the province. Isulan bombing this morning - three fatalities. **Palembang** [municipality] ERs will be delayed because of transport difficulties.

Action taken: “Monitor closely ballots and results”

Reported by Namfrel **Zamboanga city** coordinator, Ma. Victoria Montañó at 1745H on Election Day – Two precincts reported that they lack ERs so they are photocopying forms. Montañó inquired if there is a resolution allowing the photocopying of such forms.

Action taken: Telibert suggested [that they] use Namfrel’s PTF.



National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)
Cainta, N. Surar

May 19, 2001

TO : Mr. Jose S. Concepcion, Jr.
National Chairman

FROM : Mr. Walberto A. Honey
Provincial Chairman

SUBJECT : GENERAL OBSERVATIONS - 1

After six days of monitoring and direct counting of votes with thorough verifications on the Election Returns (ER), we hereby acknowledge some major and minor discrepancies in the process, on the 21 municipalities of Northern Surar.

We do express the following observations:

1. Differences of Serial Numbers in the Local and National Position
2. Data on Voters and Ballots with no entries given.
3. Miscounting and mis-transferred of votes from tally in figures, and from figures to words
4. Photocopied election returns with "black-colored ink" that differs from the common "violet-colored ink" serial numbers on the 6th copy of the citizen card.
5. We found out one member of the PDI who is a "third member" of one precinct and at the same time "poll clerk" of another precinct.
6. Some chairmen of the BEI do not have their trademark on the ER.

These are general observations gathered as we went through with our Election 2001 Municipal Quick Count.

For your reference and guidance:


WALBERTO A. HONEY
Provincial Chairman



Report from Namfrel **Lanao del Norte** co-chairpersons Clem Dumlao and Jun Lumbo on 1840H on Election Day (through Namfrel Regional Director for Mindanao Eric Alvia) – “Elections postponed for the municipality of **Pantar** according to Comelec Asst. Regional Director Limbaco due to incomplete or missing election paraphernalia in voting centers.”

Reported by Namfrel **Lanao del Norte** provincial chairperson, Jun Lumbo at 1840H on Election Day - "For the municipality of **Pantar** - elections postponed according to Comelec findings per Assistant Regional Director Limbaco due to incomplete or missing election paraphernalia in voting centers.

Municipality of **Magsaysay**- Namfrel volunteers weren't able to reach their voting centers since roads leading to them were strewn with nails. Except for these two incidents, the rest of Lanao del Norte is peaceful including Iligan. Mr. Lumbo denied reports that Namfrel volunteers in Iligan and Lanao del Norte are partisan in favor of (congressional) PPC candidate."

Action taken: "Fr. Anton Bañez will take charge of collecting ERs in Magsaysay to be delivered to Iligan OQC HQ. They will give detailed report on Pantar and Magsaysay."

Reported by Namfrel **Compostela Valley** executive director, Jun Palabao at 1918H on Election Day – “Elements of the 60th IB of the Philippine Army were reported to be openly campaigning for **Monkayo** mayoralty bet Jose Brillantes. Incumbent town mayor and re-electionist Avelino Cabag immediately requested for the pullout of the ‘partisan’ troops. Town residents almost raised an uproar were it not for the timely pullout and a redeployment of new troops. Elections in the municipality (Monkayo) opened today which is relatively calm.”

Report from volunteer Jasmin Eusebio of *barangay Tetuan, Zamboanga city* at 1930H on Election Day – “BEI of **precinct 491-A** was counting votes by marking the tally board only and not simultaneously on the (sic) election return. This was admitted by the chairman of the BEI Lorelie Rosal citing that this was



her first time to be chairman. This admission was made upon confrontation with Atty. Arsenio Ruiz, Ppcrv, whom we requested assistance from.”

Action taken: “We coordinated with one of the head teachers to find a solution and with the assistance of Ppcrv, ordered a recount, this time marking both the tally board and election return – with the watchers of the different parties and Namfrel ensuring that each vote is marked correctly.”

Report from Namfrel **Zamboanga city** staff at 2015H on Election Day – “Zamboanga city, **precincts 445A-1 and 448A-1**...no Comelec staff in **Talontalon** Area to validate or authenticate documents. **Precinct 448A-1** has no ERs.”

Action taken: Namfrel staff still trying to get hold of Comelec.

Report from Namfrel National Council Member Patricia Sison (through Namfrel Regional Director for Mindanao Eric Alvia) at 2140H on Election Day – “**Tubod, Lanao del Norte**...candidate Abdullah Dimaporo has convinced and sought assistance of PNP provincial commander Col. Sanip (relative of Dimaporo) through the intercession of Paul Dominguez that the ballot boxes of Tubod be brought to the provincial capitol instead of canvassing in the municipal hall.”

Report from Namfrel **Zamboanga city** volunteer, Teresa Fabugais, at 2150H on Election Day –**Precincts 616A and 616A-1** [*barangay Sinumbong*]...BEI Helen dela Torre did not finish the canvassing of votes and wanted to bring it home. Namfrel volunteers stopped them and they left the ballot boxes. All three teachers also left including the chairman. All party watchers also abandoned the boxes. The boxes are being watched by Namfrel volunteers and the police.

Action taken: “2215H: Called Comelec’s Roy Cuevas and he authorized our Namfrel volunteers to transport the said boxes to



Comelec office under police escort. 2230H: Namfrel volunteers will deliver the boxes to the Comelec office.”

Report from Namfrel **Sulu** OQC chairperson, Brenda de Vera at 2300H on Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Michelle Yap) – “Namfrel volunteers have not yet gotten returns for they are waiting for the approval that the AFP members, instead of the teachers, will man the tabulation as BEIs.”

Report from Namfrel **North Cotabato** chairperson, Msgr. Ronilo Villamor at 2302H on Election Day – “Many of the registered voters were not able to find their names in the official list of voters.”

Report from Jinky of Comelec Cagayan de Oro city at 2328H on Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Francisco Valmoria) – “Mrs. Orot, principal of **North City Central Elementary School, Puntod, Cagayan de Oro** city, won’t release the ERs for Namfrel because she wants to submit [them] as one complete set. The rationale is that she won’t receive her salary if confronted with submitting incomplete returns.”

Report from Namfrel **Basilan** chairperson, Michael Manapol at 2230H on Election Day – “Lighting facilities in schools are inadequate (sic) while tallying the votes. Ppcrv and Namfrel volunteers gave assistance by providing candles, etc., in the tallying.”

Reports from Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI,

2235H on Election Day – “First Report on the Election process in the municipality of **Matanog, 1st district of Maguindanao**

1. At about 0700H at Matanog, Maguindanao, two mortar shells exploded near the vicinity of the municipal hall.
2. Of the 60 teachers, who were supposed to serve in the election, only 16 reported.



3. Due to mortar shell bombing before the distribution of the ballot boxes to the precincts, the electorates of the said municipality went back to the evacuation centers and could not vote anymore because of fear.
4. The election officer of Matanog, after the bombing, immediately declared failure of election in the said municipality around 0730H on Election Day.
5. Around 1130H, the military took over the election process per instruction of Comelec Regional Director Atty. Clarita Callar.
6. Mayoralty candidate Kahir Macapeges of the Lakas-Nucd objected the military takeover.
7. Due to disagreement between the candidates following the confusion due to bombing and later the declaration of failure of the election, majority of the voters were no longer interested in the election processes.
8. The Lakas-Nucd under its leader Maguindanao provincial governor Zacaria Candao is petitioning Comelec for the declaration of the total failure of election in the municipality of Matanog.
9. Namfrel Maguindanao endorses the petition for failure of election because of the confusion following the mortar shell explosion, the declaration of failure of election by the election registrar of the said municipality, and the scampering of voters and their immediate return to the evacuation [centers] and homes.”

2310H on Election Day – “Monitoring of Election Processes in the 2nd

District of Maguindanao covering the following municipalities:

Ampatuan, Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Talayan, and Datu Odin Sinsuat

1. It is noticeable that in all the said municipalities posters of local candidates of the Lakas-Nucd were nowhere (sic) to be seen. All the above municipalities were understood as exclusive preserves of Kampi candidates under the leadership of gubernatorial candidate Datu Andal Ampatuan.



2. During the monitoring visit of Namfrel in the said municipalities, poor voters' turnout was very noticeable except in the central school of *barangay Kauran, Central School of Shariff Aguak, Central School in Datu Piang, and Central School in Datu Odin Sinsuat*. Yet the BEIs in the voting centers along the highway traversing the above-mentioned municipalities reported a voters' turnout of 70-100%.
3. It is also noticeable from the interviews with (sic) the BEIs that as of 1400H, they were not sure where the actual counting would take place. They were waiting for instructions from the local election registrar whether to proceed to the municipal hall of the above-mentioned municipalities or count the votes in their respective precincts. They did NOT have the election returns.
4. In all the voting centers in the above-mentioned municipalities visited by Namfrel Provincial Task Force, not a single watcher belonged (sic) to the Lakas-Nucd and Pwersa ng Masa.
5. Namfrel Provincial Task Force learned at about 1500H that counting of votes would be done in their respective municipal halls, even without watchers from other political parties except Kampi.
6. The election process in all the abovementioned municipalities have been very peaceful notwithstanding low voters' turnout."

2325H on Election Day – "Report No. 3 – Monitoring of Election Processes in the **1st District of Maguindanao** covering the following municipalities: **Parang, Sultan Kudarat, and Matanog**

1. The actual voting in Matanog municipality began at about 1300H after the military had taken over the electoral processes in the said municipality.
2. Except for the municipality of Matanog, no untoward incident was reported. Elections in Parang and Sultan Kudarat municipalities had been peaceful in spite of the reported massive cheating and vote



buying in the municipality of Parang. The report was not substantiated.

3. Elections in Parang and Sultan Kudarat municipalities proceeded smoothly in spite of the above allegations.”

2350H on Election Day – “Report on **Sultan sa Barongis municipality, 2nd District of Maguindanao**

1. The Election Registrar of the said municipality decided to postpone the counting of ballots in all precincts due to the following reasons:
 - 1.1 Poor lighting facilities in the municipal hall, and
 - 1.2 The peace and order situation after dark.
2. The counting of ballots will take place in the municipal hall tomorrow morning, May 15, 2001.

There was no untoward incident during Election Day except of the already reported grenade explosion in *barangay Poblacion* last Saturday, May 12, at about 2300H with three dead and 28 wounded.”

Reported by Namfrel **Lanao del Sur** volunteer, Atty. Lacsaman Busaran (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Benjamin Mina) at 2113H on Election Day – There was a failure of election in **Dumalondon, Lanao del Sur** [because] teachers were afraid to serve. They claimed that some of their relatives and friends are running and to secure themselves, they did not go about the elections. There was also a misunderstanding between the traditional and civic leaders that [contributed] to the fear [which was reasoned to be the cause of the failure of the elections].

Action taken: This was reported to the Comelec and relayed to the commissioner-in-charge. They are awaiting further instructions to proceed with the special elections.



Reported by Namfrel **Surigao del Norte** chairperson, Msgr. Prescilo Iral, at 2340H on Election Day – There was power disruption at **Ipil Elementary School, Ipil** [municipality] from 2200H-2220H. Surigao del Norte is placed under Comelec control.

Reported by Namfrel **Sulu** volunteer, Alexander Rambano at 2345H on Election Day – [via SMS] “As of 2230H, the counting of ballots has not yet started. The ballot boxes have just arrived at the tabulation center.”

Report from **Butuan city, Agusan del Norte** volunteer, Ronilo Barsatug at 0030H, Day 1 after Election Day – ...(b) failure to put indelible ink; (c) two voters failed to vote because somebody voted already in their behalf; (d) many registered voters failed to vote because their names were omitted/not included in the final list of voters although they were able to vote during the previous election.”

Report from **Magallanes, Agusan del Norte** at 0030H, Day 1 after Election Day – “Some teachers (members of the BEI) refused to furnish Namfrel volunteers copy of the election returns.”

Report from Namfrel **Tawi-tawi** chairperson, Prof. Miraflor Alih at 0049H, Day 1 after Election Day – “6th copy [of the ER] unreadable. BEIs refused to give 6th copy due to lack of envelopes for it.”

Action taken: “They just copied the tally results sa board, it’s not worth arguing with them.”

Report from **Opol, Misamis Oriental** received by Lewellyn Celestino at 0050H, Day 1 after Election Day – “It has been reported that majority of the precincts in Opol, Misamis Oriental do not want to surrender the 6th copy of the ER due to an alleged memo from Comelec Misamis Oriental. Further, the precinct [BEIs] indicated that they would only release the ER to the dominant party. The[sic] situation is not isolated to Opol.”



NAMFREL		COMELEC	
As of 7:25 p.m., May 22		7 p.m., May 22	
No. of precincts: 136,283 (67.80%)		Rank	
1	DE CASTRO 10,815,952	1	6,314,878
2	FLAVIER 7,959,068	2	4,403,063
3	OSMEÑA 7,871,644	3	4,376,872
4	MAGSAYSAY 7,624,820	4	4,317,899
5	DRILON 7,614,674	6	4,222,301
6	ARROYO 7,614,535	7	4,194,222
7	VILLAR 7,481,382	5	4,282,055
8	PANGILINAN 7,381,847	8	4,157,633
9	ANGARA 7,221,687	10	3,954,070
10	LACSON 6,987,520	12	3,848,482
11	IEJERCITO 6,940,385	11	3,881,535
12	RECTO 6,893,114	9	4,103,929
13	HONASAN 6,864,479	13	3,828,657
14	SANTIAGO 6,428,783	15	3,484,307
15	EVRILE 6,388,195	14	3,571,157
16	PLINO 5,976,122	16	3,092,852
17	TANADA 5,512,708	18	2,947,527
18	MERCADO 5,006,207	17	3,069,799
19	PAGDANGANAN 4,782,542	19	2,575,896
20	HERRERA 4,701,452	20	2,473,494
21	MONSOD 4,581,431	21	2,448,252
22	RASILIL 3,433,297	23	1,711,301
23	MADRIGAL 3,363,366	24	1,694,483
24	CHATO 3,285,239	22	1,780,433
25	YASAY 3,195,816	25	1,691,391
26	CANOY 2,451,126	26	1,274,924
27	TAMANO 2,299,785	27	1,115,113
28	ADAZA 536,185	28	343,082
29	MORATO 456,163	30	207,907
30	NAVARRO 430,871	29	226,916

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 23 May, p. 1

Action taken: “Faxed a memorandum signed by Comelec chairman Alfredo Benipayo regarding the order to surrender the 6th copy of ER to Namfrel.”

Report from Namfrel *barangay* **Sinayawan, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur** volunteer Maricris Loseda at 0120H, Day 1 after Election Day – “6th copies of ER have been withheld by the *barangay* captain. The roving team said it was because the *barangay* captain is trying to accuse Namfrel as partisan. Namfrel volunteers talked to the *barangay* captain and explained that it was not true. The 6th copies of the ER were eventually released.”

Report from Namfrel **Zamboanga del Sur** chairperson, Precioso



Tapitan at 0230H, Day 1 after Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Sr. Susana Allic, DC) – “In one precinct in *barangay* **San Pedro, Pagadian city, Zamboanga del Sur**, the BEI did not want to give the 6th copy unless it passes first through the Comelec, thus causing delay.”

Reported by Namfrel **Lanao del Sur** volunteer, Nasser Dibansa at 0500H, Day 1 after Election Day – The elections is generally peaceful [and] no untoward incident[s] [were] reported. Counting of official ballots [has not yet] started throughout the province. Counting venue[s] were centralized in four places. Wao for the municipalities of Wao and Bumbaran, Lanao Provincial Capitol and Lancap for the 31 municipalities of Lanao del Sur, including Marawi City; and Malabang for the Municipalities of Malabang, Balabagan, Calanogas, Marogong, Sultan Gumander and Kapatagan.

Failure of election[s] were reported in some parts of Lanao del Sur. No elections [were held] in the entire municipality of **Sultan Domalondong**, [in] three precincts in the municipality of **Lumba-Bayabao**, [in] one precinct in **Tamparan**, [in] two precincts in **Poona-bayabao**, [in] four precincts in **Taraka**, [in] seven precincts in **Lumbayanague**, [in] one precinct in **Masiu**, and [in] seven precincts in **Lumbatan**. Failure of elections were caused by [incidents of] ballot box-snatching, absence of BEIs and [the failure] of the election officers to [allocate and release] election paraphernalia.

Report from Namfrel **Maguindanao** coordinator, Joseph Fernandez at 0905H, Day 1 after Election Day – “There was a failure of elections in **Matanog**.”

Reported by Namfrel **Bukidnon** coordinator, Fr. Rey Raluto at 1000H, Day 1 after Election Day – At 0830H three couriers, Felix Maringanon, Noel Villahermosa, and Glenn Kanastra had a vehicular accident. They were riding their own motorcycles on their way from Kanilangan to Malaybalay when they bumped into each other to steer clear of an on-coming vehicle. All three were injured but Glenn Kanastra was unconscious. They were brought to the provincial hospital and the employer of Glenn Canastra took care of the bills.



Report from Eleazar Dimalapang of *barangay Licomo, Zamboanga city* on Day 1 after Election Day – “Antonio Rubio, teacher-in-charge of **precincts 188A-2/188A-3** had custody of the ballot boxes. He, together with some teachers were in a house sleeping when the [Namfrel] group arrived. He insisted that the 6th copy should not be given. Aside from that he said that the memorandum coming from Comelec was ‘invalid.’ ‘It should have been addressed to them [BEIs]’, he said. In spite of much convincing (sic) ...he still decided not to give the 6th copies.”

Report from Namfrel **Bukidnon** chairperson, Fr. Rey Raluto at 1350H, Day 1 after Election Day – BEIs of **Camp Philips, Manolo Fortich** refused to give the 6th copies of the ER to Namfrel volunteers despite presenting valid IDs and showing the memo from Namfrel national chairperson. Fr. Raluto talked to the BEIs but the latter insisted [on releasing] the ERs at the municipal [canvassing].

Report from Namfrel **Maguindanao** coordinator, Joseph Fernandez at 1650H, Day 1 after Election Day (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Jennifer Uy) – “Namfrel Maguindanao cannot give the total number of registered voters and total number of voters who actually voted because the ERs sent to them do not contain those information. With 73 precincts, they have only 10 precincts with that information. This is the problem they are having.”

Reported by Namfrel **Munai, Lanao del Norte** chairperson, Abdul Hadie Obinay on 1715H, Day 1 after Election Day – Assistant election officer [of Comelec] Rakim Paute does not recognize [Namfrel] and ordered the 26th Infantry Brigade soldiers to confiscate all IDs of Namfrel volunteers. Hence, all volunteers of Namfrel of the said area are without IDs. He does not even want to read resolutions/documents coming from Comelec or [Namfrel office]. He is so arrogant.

Action taken: Strongly recommend proper action to be taken to discipline him to respect laws and policies issued by your office.



Report from Namfrel **Compostela Valley** operations head Jun Palabao at 1720H, Day 1 after Election Day – “Two Namfrel volunteers were dispatched to **Maragusan** [municipality] to get the 6th copies of the ERs to our tabulation center. As per Comelec Maragusan, they could not give the copies since they have already accredited *Bantay Balota*, a local Maragusan citizens’ arm. We advised them through radio, but they did not give us the copies. Per their allegation, we did not come on time telling them of our presence. How come that among the 11 registrars of Compostela Valley province, they were the only ones which resisted to our request? Some registrars gave or released the copies even if our volunteers were sent on the 11th hour.

Report received by OQC La Salle volunteer June Pearl Simpas at 1800H, Day 1 after Election Day – “*barangay Aguada precinct 13A-1, barangay Embargo precincts 125A, 126A, and 126A-1* (did not hand over the ERs). [BEIs of] barangay Embargo accidentally placed the 6th copy in the ballot box, while [BEIs in] barangay Aguado refused to give their 6th copy.”

Report received from Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI at 2100H, Day 1 after Election Day – “For urgent attention of Namfrel Chair Jose Concepcion

Report on the clustered counting of ballots coming from the following municipalities: **Kabuntalan, South Upi, Talitay** and part of **North Upi** at the 6th Infantry Division Gymnasium.

1. The gymnasium is unprepared to host the counting of ballots for the above clustered municipalities for the following reasons:
 - 1.1 No tables and no chairs. The BEIs are doing the counting on the cement floor of the gymnasium.
 - 1.2 The election registrars of the above clustered municipalities were not constantly present during the counting for immediate consolidation when problems arise.



2. Reports have been submitted to Namfrel Maguindanao office that one of the BEIs writing the tabulation of ballots is a sister of one of the candidates in the municipality of Kabuntalan. It was reported to the election registrar, but no action was taken.
3. Namfrel Maguindanao requests Namfrel National to relay to Comelec Manila their request for the 6th Infantry Division through the AFP or DND to provide facilities such as desks and tables to the BEIs of the above clustered municipalities.
4. Namfrel Maguindanao requests the constant presence of the election registrars of the said clustered municipalities at the 6th ID gymnasium to supervise the counting and the preparation of election returns by the BEIs.

Report received from Namfrel **Lanao del Sur** OQC chairperson, Nasser Dibansa at 0140H, Day 2 after Election Day – “It’s hard for them to [send a] report from [the] other municipalities because the BEI is asking for a certificate to be able to give them [Namfrel volunteers] the 6th copy of the election return.”

Action taken: Reported the incident to Comelec commissioner assigned to Lanao del Sur so that BEIs will be instructed to release the 6th copy of ERs to Namfrel.

Report received by OQC La Salle volunteer Anthony Lacson on Day 2 after Election Day- “Municipality of **Pantao-Ragat, Lanao del Norte**...for no [obvious] reason, the 30 Namfrel volunteers were not allowed to enter the counting [center] even though they had presented their IDs. It was rejected by Lt. Manuel Garidor Manuel and Lt. Romel Valencia.”

Reported by Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI, at 1120H, Day 2 after Election Day – “Subject: Provincial Canvassing for the Province of Maguindanao



1. Urgent petition to move the provincial canvassing from the gymnasium of the 6th Infantry Division, Awang, Datu, Odin Sinsuat to the gymnasium of the provincial capital located within the capitol grounds in Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.
2. The Lakas-Nucd party under gubernational candidate Zacaria Candao strongly accuses the 6th ID of the AFP as partisan to the Kampi gubernatorial candidate Datu Andal Ampatuan.
3. To preserve the integrity of the Comelec as well as the AFP, Namfrel Maguindanao strongly recommends the move of provincial canvassing to the gymnasium of the provincial capitol or at the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* as provided for by law, all located within the capitol grounds.
4. The other alternative to no. 3 is the ARMM PNP regional Headquarters at Camp SK Pendatun in Parang, Maguindanao as earlier recommended.
5. Strongly requesting Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion to make proper representation at the Comelec Manila to act immediately on our request.”

Reported by Namfrel **Tawi-tawi** chairperson, Prof. Miraflor Alih at 1700H, Day 2 after Election Day – “Several ERs were not readable so that we are forced to exclude it from our report. Some precincts were clustered making our reported precincts lower than what the Comelec previously reported. The ERs for the local results were very much affected; not so much for the senators and the party list which were printed previously in the tally sheet. The data reflected on the ER about the number of registered voters against number of voters who actually cast their votes are ‘unbelievable’ the latter actually not being able to cast their votes as observed by the volunteers”.

Action taken: “We had to exclude the local results in our tally per precinct. We proceeded to report the senators and party list for the national tally. It is not accurate to report the number of registered



voters against those who actually cast their votes because of irreconcilable data on the ERs.”

Reported by Namfrel OQC La Salle volunteer Abbie Pineda at 2156H, Day 2 after Election Day – “Received text message from Fr. Mercado: I do not know the results yet of the **2nd District of Maguindanao**. But there are fears that the whole thing is manufactured similar to 1986 snap elections. I observed the two elections.”

Reported by Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI, 2142H, Day 2 after Election Day –

“ Elections in the Municipality of **Barira, Maguindanao**:

1. On May 14, actual elections happened only in three *barangays*:
Poblacion with nine clustered precincts, **Tagaig** with four clustered precincts and **Nabalawag** with three clustered precincts. There are 50 clustered precincts in the municipality of Barira.
2. No elections took place in the following *barangays*:
Liong (four clustered precincts)
Lipa (two clustered precincts)
Minabay (three clustered precincts)
Marang (four clustered precincts)
Bualan (four clustered precincts)
Lipawan (seven clustered precincts)
Ruminimbang (four clustered precincts)
3. Requesting Comelec for immediate scheduling of elections in the above mentioned *barangays* involving more or less two-thirds of the total voting populace of the said municipality.”



At 2129H, Day 2 after Election Day –

“Urgently requesting Namfrel national chair Jose Concepcion to intercede before the Comelec Manila to move the provincial canvassing from 6th Infantry Division (ID) gymnasium to the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* Hall within the provincial capitol grounds.

1. The municipal certificates of canvass are now being delivered to the 6th Infantry Division for provincial canvass. The provincial board of canvassers [have] not met [convened] up to this writing. There is ample time to effect change [of] the venue to protect the integrity of the Comelec and the AFP. There is strong accusation against the 6th ID to be partisan in these elections. Indicators would warrant such accusation.
2. If the provincial canvassing would not be transferred to the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* as provided for by law, there are fears that the result of the provincial canvassing will be in question.

The provincial canvassing is scheduled to begin at 0800H tomorrow. There is an urgent request for Comelec Manila to decide on this request ASAP and announce its decision tonight or early morning tomorrow before 0800H.”

Reported by Namfrel **Zamboanga Sibugay** provincial chairperson, Gualberto Largo (received by OQC La Salle volunteer Rachel Bugaoisan) at 1109H, Day 3 after Election Day – The total number of precincts and registered voters in the Namfrel and Comelec lists for the municipalities of **Mabuhay** and **Imelda** were different because of the clustering of the precincts by Comelec. Zamboanga Sibugay volunteer Claudia Aballe also reported that Comelec changed the number of precincts and registered voters in the municipality of **Buug** causing Namfrel and Comelec lists to not tally.



Reported by Namfrel **Maragusan, Compostela Valley** volunteer, Jun Palabao at 2214H, Day 3 after Election Day – Namfrel Compostela Valley’s failure to acquire Maragusan’s 6th copy of election returns due to the refusal by the town’s election registrar. Will now copy from the provincial Comelec’s election returns. Tampering of the election returns is suspected.”



Reported by **Davao Oriental** volunteer Sally Ferrales at 2000H, Day 5 after Election Day – Results could not be obtained from the [municipalities] of **Gov. Generoso and Taragona** because of ongoing protests.

Reported by Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI, (through SMS) at 2027H, Day 5 after Election Day – “ERs revealed massive cheatings in seven out of 11 municipalities. They have received reports that the other ERs being held by EOs are worse. They have just completed 35% of the total.”



Notre Dame University Cotabato City, Philippines
Homepage: <http://www.ndu.fapenet.org>
E-mail: ndu@ndu.fapenet.org

Aide Memoire

May 17, 2001

COMMISSIONER MEHOL SADAIN
Commissioner In-Charged for XII & ARMM
Intramuros, Manila

ATTN: ATTY. CLARITA CALLAR
Regional Director
COMELEC XII

Dear Commissioner Sadain:

Greetings of Peace!

In view of the on going counting and canvassing of election results in Maguindanao province, may I inform you of the realities and its respective recommendations:

1. The PNP ARMM headquarters in Parang, Maguindanao and 6th Infantry Division in Awang, DOS, Maguindanao are preventing the Namfrel volunteers to enter the canvassing of the election returns of different municipalities of Maguindanao. Please allow our Namfrel volunteers to enter in the said designated canvassing places, so that we can have the NAMFREL Copy, thus we can continue in our Operation Quick Count;
2. Please instruct the Provincial Election Supervisor to conduct an inventory of Municipal Certificate of Canvass and publish the same (per municipality) for complete transparency; and
3. As per agreement in our discussion, to transfer the Provincial Canvassing to Manila for the good of all and safety of Comelec Officials.

Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely yours,

FR. ELISEO R. MERCADO, JR., OMI
Chair, Namfrel-Maguindanao

cc: MR. JOSE CONCEPCION
Chairman, NAMFREL

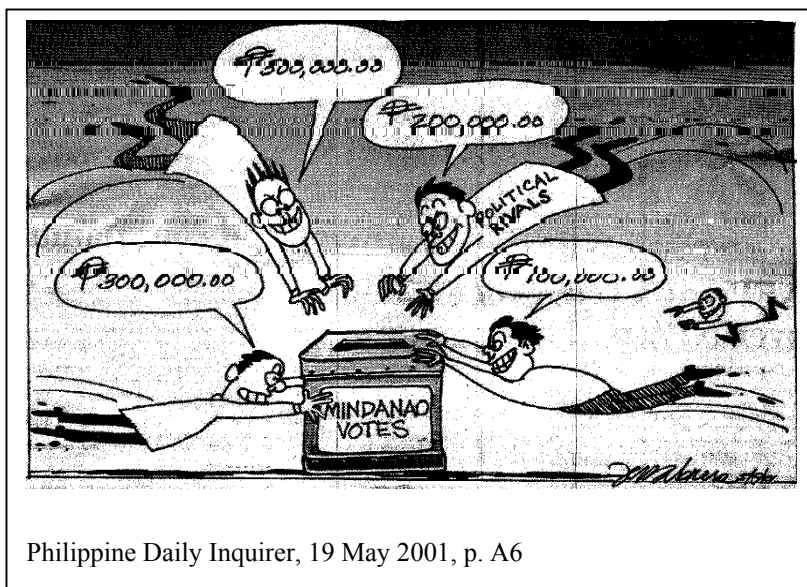
Reported by Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI on Day 5 after Election Day. From the municipalities of **Parang, Sultan Kudarat, Datu Odin Sinsuat** (District I) and **Buluan, South Upi, Mamasapano, Pagagawan, Talitay** (District 2).

The early election returns (ER) from the two districts of Maguindanao Province showed discrepancies and abnormal documentation in both local and national level. The ERs are mostly incomplete in pages. This will result to an incomplete picture of the provincial result.



The sixth copy of nine pages of election returns due to Namfrel is generally unclear and unreadable, which makes it difficult to the verifiers to check on the veracity of the figures and corresponding written words in the tally sheet. Tally sheets of election returns are tampered with correction fluid, ball pens and pasted sheet of election return paper.

A very prominent technique applied is having a difference between the tallied votes with the total votes obtained. Erasures means minus



votes for the candidates, while a single number written before the total votes obtained results to hundreds of added votes to the favored candidates. Likewise, the figures and the written words are not constant.

Several ERs showed that votes cast are more than the official registered voters in the said precinct.

These findings are true in nine municipalities of the 21 in Maguindanao Province.

Recommendations:

1. To suspend temporarily the counting of all election returns received in different municipalities of Maguindanao.
2. To study/assess and evaluate the [election] documents.



Reported by Namfrel **Lanao Del Sur** head of the Tabulation Section, Nasser
Dibansa, Day 8 after Election Day

The Chief Tabulator
Namfrel, Manila

Greetings of Peace:

This is in relation to the discrepancy that was brought to your attention pertaining to the number of votes obtained by candidates exceeding the number of registered voters contained in the XF Forms transmitted to your office by the undersigned.

In this connection, I would like to inform you that such discrepancies was caused by the non-inclusion of (the data on) the 'number of registered voters' as well as the 'number of voters who actually voted' in precincts where the box in the ERs [that was supposed to contain such data] were not filled up by BEIs while [the rest of the ERs] are unreadable. But the number of votes obtained by candidates were tabulated and reported in the XF Forms. These untabulated numbers of voters who actually voted were indicated in the boxes 'No. of ERs without data on VV' in the XF Forms transmitted.

In relation to the situation of counting and canvassing as well as collection of ERs and COCs, we are sorry to inform your office that because of the delays [in the] counting and canvassing in some municipalities, we were not able to cope with the requirements you expected from us as per directional target set by [the] Namfrel office. Counting and canvassing procedures adopted by Comelec is contrary to what the Election Code mandated, as they made the counting and canvassing by 10s, by 5s or even by two precincts per day. These



procedures have created tiredness (sic) to our volunteers due to logistics, health, and financial problems.

In this situation, we are hoping that you will understand our situation.

Letter of Namfrel **Lanao del Sur** head of the Tabulation Section, Nasser Dibansa, to Namfrel chairman Jose Concepcion, Jr. on 26 May, Day 12 after Election Day

This is to inform your good office of the different problems encountered by our Namfrel volunteers in the collection of the 6th copy of the election returns, the 4th copy of the COCs and watching the proceedings of the counting and canvassing...

1. Volunteers were denied entrance by military personnel (sic) in the polling place where counting took place (sic). They are only allowed after the counting and canvassing have finished. In some instances, election officers disappeared and cannot be located after counting and canvassing were made resulting to the failure of our volunteers to collect the 6th copy of the ERs and the 4th copy of the COCs.
2. Namfrel volunteers were advised by election officers to secure an order from the [provincial] election supervisor for the release of the ERs and COCs, but when it is secured, and upon presentation to them the order, [the] election officer who made such advise, did not comply with the order, instead they accused our volunteers of falsifying such order. (Order of Provincial Election Supervisor Atty. Somalipao, attached for Election Officer Alawi Tago.)
3. Due to continuous delay of counting and canvassing, our Namfrel volunteers were complaining of tiredness (sic), health and logistic problems.



In this connection, we are appealing and requesting, the Chairman, Commission on Elections, through your representation, to make an end in these delays...as it does not only affect the peace and order of our province but it will reflect to the credibility and capability of the Commission on Elections.

Hoping that everyone in the highest echelon of our government will understand how our people are bothered by dirty politicians.

Memorandum of Acting Provincial Election Supervisor for **Lanao del Sur**, Atty. Ray Sumalipao of 22 May 2001

“To: All Election Officers
Lanao del Sur – Marawi City

Subject: 6th Copy of the Election Return and 4th copy of the COC

Pursuant to Comelec Resolution Spp No. 00-040 dated April 5, 2001, regarding deputization of Citizen’s Arm of the Commission and considering the fact that Namfrel as accredited group to man the quick counting. You are hereby directed to release the sixth copy of the Election Return and the 4th copy of the Certificate of Canvas (COC) to Namfrel as deputized by the Commission.

For strict compliance and without delay.”

[Noted: Municipalities of Marantao, Masui, Maguing and Bubong]

Memorandum No. 2001-05-053 from Mehol K. Sadain, commissioner-in-charge of Region II to Atty. Ray Sumalipao, chairman Provincial Board of Canvassers [**Lanao del Sur**] on 29 May 2001.



"You are hereby directed to inform and order different Chairmen of the Municipal Board of Canvassers in the province to provide copies of the appropriate completed election returns (ERs) and certificates of canvass (COCs) to the dominant majority and dominant minority parties.

In addition, copies of the ERs and the COCs that pertain to the citizens' arm, Namfrel, should also be given to its duly designated representatives."

Letter of Namfrel **Lanao del Sur** chairperson, H. Abdullah Lacs Dalidig, to Namfrel chairman Jose Concepcion, Jr. on 31 May 2001

This is to inform your good office that our volunteers have failed to collect the 6th copy of the Election Returns as well as the 4th copy of the Certificate of Canvass (sic) of the following municipalities who have finished counting due to the denial of election officers (EO) to release the 6th copy and the 4th copy for unknown reasons. They are the following:

Municipality	Remarks
1. Poona Bayabao	EO denied release
2. Mulondo	EO denied release
3. Tagaloan 2	EO denied release
4. Bubong	EO denied release
5. Buadipuso Buntong	EO denied release
6. Piagapo	EO denied release
7. Lumbayanague	EO denied release
8. Bumbaran	EO denied release
9. Balabagan	EO denied release
10. Tamparan	EO denied release
11. Kapatagan	EO denied release
12. Sultan Gumander	No ER but COC released
13. Maguing	EO denied release
14. Malabang	ER received; no COC
15. Masiu	ER received; no COC
16. Binidayan	EO denied release
17. Lumbatan	EO denied release



On cross-footing (sic) between results from the ERs against the COC, discrepancies have been found in the COCs from the municipalities of **Marogong, Pualas, and Calanogas.**

Sworn affidavit executed by volunteer H. Abdul Nasser Magundaya of **Marawi** city on 24 June 2001, sworn in by Atty. Casan Macabanging, Notary Public.

“That I have coordinated with EO Alikhan Kapampangan, assigned in the municipality of **Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur,** presenting and identifying myself to him as Namfrel courier to collect from him the Certificate of Canvass and Statement of Votes by Precincts for the municipality of Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur.

That I presented to him and let him acknowledge the Memorandum Order dated 08 May 2001 of Comelec Chairman Hon. Alfredo L. Benipayo, Memorandum Order No. 2001-65-053 dated 29 May 2001 of Hon. Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain and the Implementing Order of Acting PES for Lanao del Sur, Atty. Ray Sumalipao.

That despite all presentational approach (sic), subject election officer did not release to me the Certificate of Canvass and Statement of Votes by Precincts.

[Similar affidavits were executed against EO Maulana Dandamun of **Poona Bayabao**, Bangunsa-an Unte of **Kapatagan**, Alawiya Tago of **Lumbatan**, Camad Disomimba of **Maguing**, Faisal Manding of **Taraka**, and Udato Sarip of **Tubaran**.]

Letter of Namfrel **Maguindanao** chairperson, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr., OMI, to Comelec Chairman Alfredo Benipayo on 11 June, Day 28 after Election Day.



Namfrel Maguindanao & ARMM hereunder reports the following:

The Namfrel Maguindanao and ARMM received a copy of a document entitled "Certificate of Canvass of Votes and Proclamation of the Winning Candidate for Municipal Offices" for the municipality of **Parang** in Maguindanao. The said document, dated June 10, 2001, officially proclaims mayoralty candidate Esmael Biruar, vice mayoralty candidate Andan Biruar and eight other members of the Sangguniang Bayan as the winning candidates for the May 14, 2001 elections.

1. That the proclamation took place between 2300H to 000H on the 10th day of June 2001.
2. That such proclamation is based only on the results of 30 precincts. The municipality of Parang has a total of 113 clustered precincts.
3. That the proclamation was executed [at] the Pacific Heights Hotel at Kimpo Subdivision, Cotabato city.
4. That the proclamation took place despite the pre-proclamation protest lodged by respective lawyers of the mayoralty candidates, including Biruar's lawyer himself.
5. That the contending parties agreed that no proclamation should be made until the protest is resolved by the court.
6. That Parang election officer, Ruayna Sayyadi, has shown not only her being partisan during the canvassing, but also her ignorance of the existing election laws, as claimed by lawyers involved in the canvassing.

Once more, Namfrel reiterates immediate actions must be done such as: declare the proclamation as invalid since such is based only from the results of 30 precincts when in fact, the whole municipality has a total of 113 clustered precincts; and organize a new set of Municipal Board of Canvassers with



credibility, capacity and acceptable to all contending parties to re-canvass the 113 election returns of the municipality.



NAMFREL MEETING. Namfrel chairman Joe Concepcion initiates the handshake of the two camps, PPC spokesman Dodie Limcauco and PnM spokesman lawyer Crispin Remulla during the Namfrel meeting in Westin Philippine Plaza. (Ali Vicoy)