



# Relevance of Namfrel and acts of Courage of volunteers

From Namfrel **Abra** – (reported (excerpted) by Namfrel Abra chairperson, Pura Sumangil on Day 17 after Election Day)

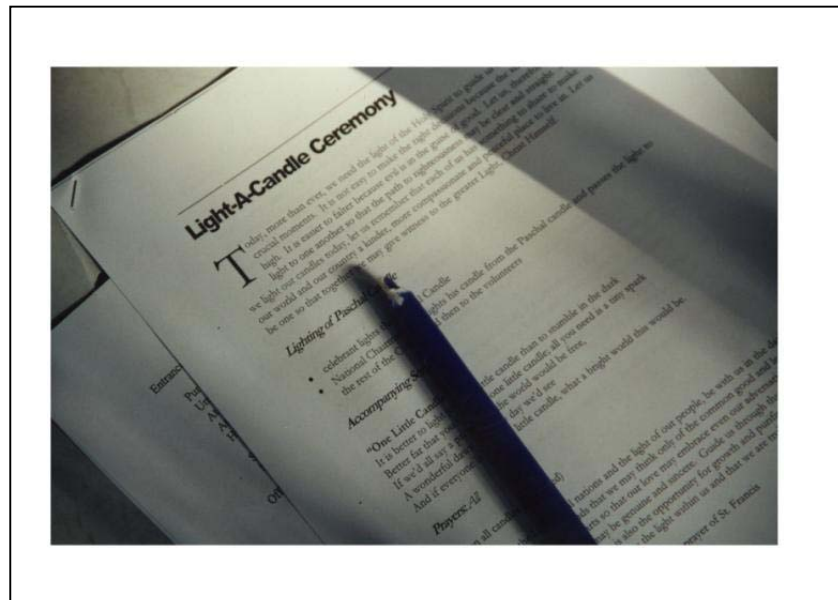
Recruitment of volunteers, organization of chapters went full blast. The veterans of previous elections were only too glad again to commit themselves. Inviting new volunteers however [was] quite different. The reason was economic. The candidates offered as much as one thousand pesos for every political party poll watcher. When life is hard, one thousand pesos [is] not easy to let go.

Teams from Divine Word College, Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government (Ccagg) and Social Development Center (Sodec) went around the parishes to help train our volunteers.

Meanwhile, the chairpersons (mostly parish priests) invited the political parties to send their poll watchers to undergo the same training as the Ppcrv and Namfrel volunteers. The response was overwhelming. Hundreds came for the training. Each political party took care of the logistical needs of their members. The parishes prepared simple fares for their volunteers.

## Rally for Peaceful Election

The violence that marred the pre-election period in several municipalities coupled with the massive vote buying all over the province prompted the Coordinating Council to hold a Rally for a Peace Election in the afternoon of April 23, 2001.



We invited the basic sectors, the academe, the candidates, the Party List, the army and the police and others. The rally participants, carrying placards, went around the town, which ended at the town plaza where a short program took place. The individual candidates were sandwiched between the police and the army who each sent a platoon.

The representatives of the market vendors, the youth, the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and the bamboo industry workers addressed the political candidates about the issues and concerns plaguing them. The candidates were also asked to give their stand and or view of certain issues affecting the communities in Abra. A modified form of the Covenant of Peace in Iloco was read to the candidates before signing it. The need to modify it came about because of the massive vote buying taking place all over the province. The covenant said in part that if the candidate made the mistake of buying votes, he would immediately rectify that mistake. Leaders of the religious denominations prayed for the candidates and for peaceful elections as the candidates themselves were lined up side by side that of their fellow candidates. The rally for a peaceful election ended with everybody holding hands and singing "Our Father" led by our Bishop. Radio Station DZPA gave the entire rally ample coverage.



This was the first time that such rally was organized in Bangued.

#### Candidates fora on the air and in the communities

A part of the education process for both the voters and the candidates was the candidates' fora. The candidates prepared their political party platform before facing their audience. To clarify issues, the listening audience wrote their questions, which were read by the panelists.

The candidates for congressman, governor, vice governor, and *Sanggunian Panlalawigan* as well as the Bangued mayoral, vice mayoral and *Sanggunian Bayan* candidates had their exposure over DZPA. Lito Bigornia, an announcer of DZPA and Merla Ruiz, station manager, anchored the program. Serving, as panelist were mostly our volunteers from the Divine Word College. Originally, the time allotted for the candidates' fora on the air was one and a half hours. But the phoned-in questions from the listeners were simply overwhelming. To accommodate them, the management extended the program for another thirty minutes.

The parishes also sponsored candidates' fora. Its novelty seemed to have waned. Not all the candidates came. The incumbents seemed not ready to face questions on their performance.

#### Pre-election violence

Much pre election violence happened because of intense political rivalry. The killings in **Lagayan** between the political rivals continued. In **Langiden**, the vice mayoral candidate, with his followers, were ambushed while on their way to another *barangay* to campaign. George Bio, his driver, was killed on the spot. The candidate was badly wounded but survived. In **Namarabar, Peñarrubia**, the health center where a



ballot box was being kept was the focus of some bad men. Unidentified individuals threw a grenade but exploded on a mango tree nearby. This saved the men and women who were keeping watch over the ballot box. These and many more caused the province of Abra to be placed under Comelec control.

The alleged partisan stance of many policemen in various municipalities, among others **San Isidro, La Paz, Bucay, Tayum, Tineg and San Juan** was denounced by many citizens. In fact, candidates came to our provincial Ppcrv/Namfrel Office to complain against them. These policemen were in the company of the incumbents and other candidates distributing money, buying votes, campaigning for their candidates and intimidating the voters.

#### Election proper

We fielded a thousand and two hundred and six (1,206) volunteers in all of Abra's 27 municipalities. These volunteers came from the cross section of Abra society. Most did poll watching. Special teams were dispatched to problematic municipalities like Lagayan, Baay-Licuan, Lagangilang and Langiden. A few stayed in the secretariat to attend to emergency needs. Others did roving work. Their vehicles were fitted with radios by DZPA and so they doubled as reporters of what they observed on the way or were reported to them by the different communities. Issues raised were taken up with Task Force Abra, the coordinating body deputized to work for Comelec.

Massive votes buying characterized the Election Day. Peso bills inserted in sample ballots continued to be distributed at the entrance of schools. Our volunteers told the distributors that campaign period is over. Telephone calls and text messages were received by the provincial office that several *barangay* captains were freely entering some precincts campaigning for their candidates. They were reported to the Task Force



who in turn promised to send forces to immobilize them. Our roving team also found voters being coached by another individual while in the voting booth. The attention of BEIs in said precincts was called.

The bigger issues were the following:

- ◆ The driver of mayoral candidate Cecilia Luna was shot and killed instantly on Election Day itself.
- ◆ In **Baay-Licuan**, the situation was very tense. The Election Officer was harassed allegedly by the camp of a mayoral candidate. Before the Election Day was over, he asked to be relieved as his life was in danger. The timely arrival of the media somehow eased the tension.

The counting of votes in Bakiro (the center of Baay-Licuan) was stopped because the Election Officer has ordered to stop the counting due to some vague reason of election failure. Also, an SB candidate was stabbed to death. The Comelec Regional Director instructed Major Felix of the AFP to oversee the peace and order of the place. Counting resumed only on the 16<sup>th</sup> after which the ERs were all brought down to the PNP headquarters in Bangued for the municipal canvass. The winners were proclaimed only after five days.

- ◆ In **Bacooc, Cayapa and Paganao** in Lagangilang, a team of media, Namfrel and police escorted the ballot boxes to the municipal hall for the centralized counting because armed men were allegedly sighted.
- ◆ In Danglas, a BEI lost consciousness because of fear and nervous. Her bulging stomach gave way to some two hundred ballots all in favor of mayoral candidate Wilmer Borbon.
- ◆ While the BEIs in the precinct of **Tubtuba, Tubo** were preparing the election returns, two armed men barged into their precinct and at gunpoint, took the ballots from the table, leaving behind the ERs and other documents.



We were constantly in communication with the Regional Director of Comelec and with Namfrel because of the above.

Despite the above-mentioned violence which marred the elections, our volunteers were steadfast in their commitment. They went on with the election duties and did not desert their posts.

### Canvassing and the Picpa

The canvassing of votes on municipal level went on unhampered. Most of the canvassers were manned by chairpersons and/or coordinators of Ppcrv and Namfrel. Mention must be made of the participation of the members of Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) Abra chapter with whom Namfrel National entered into MOA. They were twenty in all who sat in the canvassing boards in the municipalities of Bangued, Bucay, Lagangilan and in the provincial canvassing at the provincial capitol of Abra province. When the provincial canvassing board was convened, our volunteers immediately raised the need for the COC form and other official documents and not just the yellow worksheets. The vice chair of the provincial board of canvassers who happened to be the COA provincial head supported us. The COC forms were therefore brought in from the Comelec Office. Canvassing did not begin on time. The municipal canvass were yet coming in. Then the issue of the reception committee and tabulators were raised by the lawyer of the Lakas-NUCD. He averred that the members of the reception and tabulation committees are relatives of the candidate for governor Vicsyd Valera. They may also be under the influence of the governor (candidate Vicente Valera's wife) as they are under her employ. The lawyer prayed that they be replaced. The board acceded to this plea. Tabulators from the COA were brought in. The quick eye of our volunteers prevented the shaving of votes of several senatorial candidates, party list and local candidates. The most glaring was the difference in figures and in words of the votes of Ernesto Pacuña (for governor) and of Dr. Clarito Valera



(for vice governor). For the former, three hundred votes were almost shaved from his total votes in a municipality. For the latter, five hundred votes were almost subtracted from his garnered votes. There were many more instances where differences in figures and in words were detected. The process and the end of attaining fair and credible election was uppermost in our mind when we pointed out detected differences. We called the board's attention notwithstanding which candidate was affected. The election officers (EOs) were called by the provincial board of canvassers to explain. They always reasoned out that they were tired, they have been sleepless, and that they did not mean to commit fraud. But in the end, the errors were rectified.

Namfrel's non-partisan stance during the canvassing won for us the admiration of the party lawyers. The PDSP lawyer in particular said that if this is how Namfrel behaves all over the country, it deserves national commendation.

Ppcrv/Namfrel's legal officer, Atty. Cipriano Blanco ably assisted us during the election and post election controversies.

#### The case of Tineg

Tineg is an upland municipality which failed to conduct voting on election day. Prior to the Election Day, the weather was erratic. It was raining and when it stopped, the expected helicopter which would have airlifted the ballot boxes as well as the BEIs could not come. Accordingly, the cloudy skies was the culprit. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, the election officer, the BEIs and Namfrel agreed to proceed to Tineg. A military six-by-six [truck] was arranged to bring them to the last town of San Juan and from there, walk their way to their various precincts. Depending on their destination, the BEIs with their military escort will walk a good one hour to reach the nearest *barangay* of Tineg. The farthest *barangay*, however, will see the BEIs with their military escorts walk all night to get there on



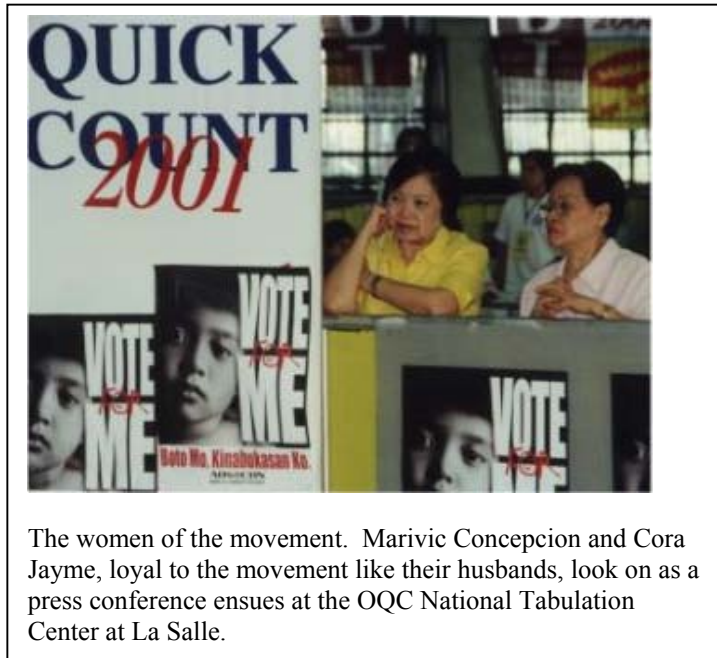
time for the opening of the polling place at 0700H. They therefore left the provincial capitol where they were staying for three days. When they were already in San Juan, a military jeep came running after them, and asked them to go back to Bangued. They were led to the PNP Camp in Bangued where they were told by the Task Force Abra that it was not safe to travel as armed men were sighted along the way in Tineg. This frustrated the teachers. They said that there was no imminent danger yet because after all, the ballots were not yet filled up. The teachers were told that they would better wait for the helicopter to airlift them. It became clear to everybody that the voting in Tineg will be postponed. The date will be decided by the Commission en banc. This occasioned Namfrel Central's discussion with Comelec commissioner Florentino Tuazon and the subsequent talk over the telephone by Pura Sumangil and the commissioner himself where he promised to take up the issue with his regional director. Some days later, the Commission en banc's decision to hold the election in Tineg was faxed to us. Namfrel advised us to send a copy to the Comelec Director, the Provincial Election Supervisor (PES) in Abra and to all concerned. There shall be a centralized counting of votes in Bangued. (It was later ruled that the counting shall be in Calaba Central School in Bangued, Abra.)

As per agreement with the Task Force Abra between the BEIs, the representatives of the political parties and Namfrel, the ballot boxes, teachers and watchers will be airlifted to northern Tineg. Those who will go to southern Tineg shall be driven in military trucks up to Vera, in Tineg and from there, walk their way to Caganayan, Apao, and Tapayen. The same procedures were to be observed after the election. Those from the southern part will be fetched in Vera by military trucks, those from the north will be airlifted.





Those coming from southern Tineg arrived in Bangued on May 20. The helicopter, for reason of the cloudy skies, flew



The women of the movement. Marivic Concepcion and Cora Jayme, loyal to the movement like their husbands, look on as a press conference ensues at the OQC National Tabulation Center at La Salle.

in only on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. It brought in seven ballot boxes from Agsimao–three [ballot boxes], Anayan–one [ballot boxes], Lapat–one [ballot box], Balantay – one [ballot box], Naglibakan–one [ballot box] and Belaat–two [ballot boxes], with the election officer and members of the canvassing board. (The helicopter could not anymore retrieve the remaining ballot box because of the cloudy skies.) Meanwhile, at 1500H of this same day, the counting of votes of the seven precincts from the south (Caganayan–three precincts, Apao–three precincts, and Tapayen–one precinct) started and ended at 1700H the next day (May 22). Earlier on the same day, the helicopter once more flew to northern Tineg and succeeded in bringing in the remaining ballot box[es], watchers and BEIs but not all of them. In view of this, all the parties concerned agreed that if two BEIs are around, counting would proceed. The counting of votes from the north at 1500H with the last precinct finishing at 0830H on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. It was the most exciting poll watching many had ever seen. The party poll watchers were very fierce and truly strict during the appreciation of votes. Ppcrv/ Namfrel poll watchers from Bangued continued the duties of Tineg volunteers. (The distance renders the latter impossible to come down to Bangued.) While counting of the votes



from the north of Tineg was going on, the canvass of votes from the south begun and ended at around 1800H. The ERs from the north were later canvassed starting at 0500H of May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The tired and exhausted BEIs, poll watchers of the political parties and Namfrel found the legal skirmishes of the party lawyers much too much to bear. Anyway, at around 1100H, the winners were proclaimed.

On 19 June, Task Force Abra formulated and signed a resolution (excerpted) commending **police superintendent Eugene Gabriel Martin** stating, "P/Supt. Martin fully implemented his mandate by exercising decisive leadership, independence of mind and resistance from pecuniary rewards...had the courage to expose the participation of several Abra PNP personnel who provided the two Gs to the traditional "guns, goons and gold" methodology of the entrenched political warlords, particularly, the unauthorized small unit movement from his organization in the municipality of Tineg during the special election on May 19, 2001. In view of his unwavering performance as head of Task Force Abra, we strongly recommend that he be appointed Provincial Director of the Abra PNP Command.

From Namfrel **Bataan**

People have high expectations [of] Namfrel volunteers. Vigilance on election anomalies is an act of courage by itself.

From Namfrel **Benguet**

Namfrel is effective in preventing plans of some candidates to establish a trend [to make it look in their favor] during the counting of ballots. [Namfrel] helped present the true picture of the results of the elections, thus giving credibility to our electoral process.



In spite of the cold shoulder showed by some voting center officials, young Namfrel volunteers stood their ground. Volunteers endured the humiliation, hunger, [and] sleepless nights just to make sure that they get the ERs and are tallied at the Namfrel headquarters.

#### From Namfrel **Cagayan**

Namfrel was effective and recognized [by Comelec as its] citizens' arm. The volunteers were very much willing to help the BEIs in counting and tallying of votes.

Namfrel volunteer northern Luzon coordinator, Frances Salenga was superb.

#### From Namfrel **Kalinga** (report from Namfrel Kalinga coordinator, Sr. Cora Sanchez in behalf of Namfrel Kalinga chairperson, Bp. Carlito Cenzon,)

"Our work is not over yet. We still have to closely yet critically collaborate with the new set of elected officials. True empowerment of our people towards genuine participative governance is still a great task left on our hands. We hope we can do something about this. More power to the Namfrel network."

Many of our Namfrel volunteers have courageously and bravely been in their assigned precincts during the casting as well as the whole night counting of votes in spite of threats. Those in the OQC spent four straight nights and days tabulating the election returns. Volunteer assigned to precincts, which election paraphernalia were snatched, were able to safeguard the election returns. [In the municipality of Lubuagan, volunteers were able to secure the ER a few seconds before armed men snatched the other copies. Those ERs became the reference copy for the municipal canvassing.](#)



From Namfrel **Isabela**

Volunteers were not intimidated by the presence of goons in some areas. Fr. Gregorio Uanan, chancellor of the diocese and Namfrel spokesperson, announced over Bombo Radio that based on the ERs, there was vote-padding in Angadanan. He condemned the machinations to subvert the truth and the will of the people. Bishop Sergio Utleg and the clergy denounced the incidents of vote-buying, terrorism and vote-padding.

From Namfrel **Nueva Ecija** – (From the diaries of Namfrel Nueva Ecija coordinator, Fr. Edwin Beley)

“This has been a very demanding and busy week for me. I have gathered around 50 volunteers to man the different committee involved in the Namfrel quick count.

But I am inspired by the volunteerism that is present. People especially the young, flock the headquarters to help. Sometime they shell out something from their own pockets. They are great!

From Namfrel **Nueva Vizcaya** (reported by Namfrel Nueva Vizcaya coordinator Sr. Eden Orino, SPC and volunteer Mary Sagapan on 15 May)

On 14 May, Elimar Somera served as Ppcrv-Namfrel volunteer at precinct 47A-1 of Bitnog Elementary School. He witnessed the canvassing the whole night. At about 0400H of 15 May, he joined the team that brought the ballot boxes to Malasin, Dupax del Norte for the municipal canvassing. Afterwards, he proceeded to Ppcrv-Namfrel municipal headquarters at St. Anne Parish, Malasin to join other volunteers for the OQC. At about 1000H he went home to freshen up and went back to St. Anne parish on a motorcycle he borrowed from Ronnie Belmonte. Due to fatigue he accidentally bumped a “rip-rap” and was thrown off his motorcycle. He felt pain on the left side of his body from the neck down



to his buttocks. He could not even lift his arm nor move his shoulder. The motorcycle was heavily damaged. After the accident he returned the motorcycle to the owner with the help of a friend and went home to Bitnog where he submitted himself to a *hilot*. He was also examined at Veterans' Regional Hospital on 17 May.

#### From Namfrel **La Union**

Thanks to Namfrel, attempts at fraud were pre-empted because of the submission/collection of ERs.

Volunteerism among the youth is highly commendable.

#### From Namfrel **Nueva Vizcaya**

Namfrel's role was generally very commendable but it could still be improved in our province. The volunteers were vigilant.

Namfrel volunteers [probably did] nothing extraordinary except for the fact that they stayed during the canvassing to wait for the ERs despite the tiring day and sometimes without enough food.

#### From Namfrel **Pampanga**

Namfrel created positive partnership between civic, church and government institutions. It also provided a venue for ordinary people to express their love for country and concern for peace.

In [the municipality of] **Macabebe**, we only had one volunteer, **Noel Quiambao**. He covered all the precincts collected 155 out of 186 ERs, a noteworthy feat indeed. His secret was he coordinated with all the school chairpersons, explained his predicament and requested [for] their assistance.



From Namfrel **Pangasinan** (Alaminos chapter) – (letter (excerpted) of Namfrel Alaminos coordinator Ester Alkonga to Namfrel executive director Telibert Laoc on 30 July.)

“It had been another rewarding experience with so much enthusiasm of our volunteers even at times exasperating because of the continued ineptness of Comelec and the thought that we are all caught up into this. Indeed, we need automation of elections and hope that this election will be the last of this kind.”

Namfrel tried its best. People who counted on it are happy that in spite of the odds it managed to do its tasks. Still Namfrel is a tough act to follow. Others tried to prove they can do what Namfrel can do [but] they could not, so in this country it is [still] Namfrel. Obviously there is a plan to derail its operations with the very late accreditation by Comelec. But the volunteers were undaunted. Still volunteers came even if some have vowed to stop [after] every election because of the difficulties but when election time comes the call for patriotism and nationalism have continually moved many people to responds.

From Namfrel **Marinduque**

Vigilance and dedication in spite of the fact that they were not being paid and some did not sleep [and were] not able to eat properly - these in themselves is an act of courage by the Namfrel volunteers.

From Namfrel **Mandaluyong city, Metro Manila**

At the Plainview Elementary School, Ppcrv decided to walk out at around 0400H because of disagreement with the [party] watchers. Because of this, there were no more Ppcrv volunteers to escort the ballot boxes to the municipal canvassing area. Our polling [place] manager, Manuel



Bayaua (a first-time volunteer) personally escorted the ballot boxes and was able to secure all the ERs from the school, which is the second biggest polling place in the city.

Other first-time polling place manager who did a splendid job included:

1. **Peter Tirman** – At one point he was our lone representative at the Isaac Lopez Elementary School but he stayed there until he secured all the election returns.
2. **Rolando Gomez** and **Angelito Camia** – Both stuck it out at Mandaluyong Elementary School until all the ERs were in.



From Namfrel **Parañaque, Metro Manila** (report from Namfrel Parañaque alternate- co-chair, Sr. Remedios Centeno, DC, on 13 June)

The true-blooded Namfrel volunteers especially those who worked at the tabulation center once more proved their worth by working overtime for one whole week.

Namfrel volunteers remained faithful to their duty of watching the counting of votes, getting election returns from the BEI (some were rather uncooperative), and seeing to it that the ERs reach our tabulation center safely. These are all acts of courage, perseverance and love of country.



A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on Ascension Sunday, 27 May at the Daughters of Charity Provincial House chapel. A short *kumustahan* followed and guide questions using the appreciative inquiry approach were given for group sharing. The following is a summary of the sharing.

Question: *Ano ang iyong pinakamasaya/pinakamakahulugang karanasan bilang Namfrel volunteer nitong nakaraang eleksyon? Ano rin ang pinakahahirap?* (Experience)

*Masaya at makahulugan:*

- *Ang pagiging volunteer, pagtulong at paglilingkod ng walang hinihintay na bayad*
- *Ang maging bahagi ng isang pulitikal na gawain, kahit mahirap at "walang alam"*
- *Pagtitiwala, respeto at atensiyon mula sa BEI at ibang watchers; "angat sa iba"*
- *Maraming nakilala; pagkakaroon ng mga bagong kaibigan*
- *Natutunan and kahalagahan ng isang boto (di nagtally = recount)*
- *Maganda ring tingnan and iba't ibang "kulay" (political spectrum) na sama-samang gumagawa*

*Mahirap:*

- *Uncooperative BEIs; ayaw magbigay ng 6<sup>th</sup> copy*
- *Magkumbinse ng tao na magvolunteer*
- *Matagal at mahabang bantayan*
- *Mahirap basahin ang 6<sup>th</sup> copy*
- *Kulang sa orientation (both volunteers and BEI)*
- *Uneducated voters*





- Transfer of ballot boxes (dangerous; no more volunteers for this)
- When written authorization was being asked
- Insufficient facilities and/or materials

Question: *Ano ang inyong pinahahalagahan bilang isang Namfrel volunteer (Values)*

- To uphold truth, honest, integrity as volunteer (knowing yourself, your objective and ready to stand on them)
- To protect the sanctity of the ballot
- Being involved/commitment for the country/service and self-sacrifice
- Being vigilant and responsible
- Learning to be patient and respectful/polite to other people at the precincts especially the BEIs.

Question: *Sa susunod na eleksyon, anu-ano ang nakikita ninyong mga pagbabago sa Namfrel batay sa inyong naggging karanasan ngayon?*

(Suggestions re organization, operations, etc.)

- Proper briefing/more orientation for the volunteers (long before Election Day)
- Suggest/note to Comelec, more orientation/training for BEI/teachers
- Early coordination with Comelec and Department of Education
- Ppcrv and Namfrel coordination at the national level
- More volunteers (especially during the counting, not just to get the ER)
- Intensive voters' education (also for politicians)
- Preparedness in terms of facilities, especially number of computers, safety of programs, back-ups)
- Permanent authorized volunteers in the computers/greater security measures
- Authorization letter in addition to ID



From Namfrel **San Juan, Metro Manila**

All 21 polling places were manned by Voting Center Managers (VCM) and Assistant Voting Center Managers (AVCM). Many VCMs returned to the tabulation center to submit the ERs the day after Election Day without breakfast.

From Namfrel **Batangas**

Namfrel has once again proven that our work and advocacy for clean and honest election was very vital in the preservation of democracy. If not for the organization, there would have been widespread cheating and massive disenfranchisement of voters on its highest level.

We salute all the volunteers! *Isang pakikiisa ng mga kabataan para sa bayan!*

From Namfrel **Catanduanes**

Being a volunteer is already an act of courage. Even if they don't have any remuneration, yet they still volunteer themselves for the sake of conducting an honest and credible election.

Having a citizens' arm during election is very important. Without this type of vigilant people, election is not credible especially in this province where vote-buying is really rampant. Even though, we educate our people on the effects of vote-buying, yet they still sell their votes. However, in some areas of the province especially around the Virac poblacion, people are already conscious about vote-buying, they now vote according to their conscience. In the rural areas candidates tend to corrupt them with money.



From Namfrel **Laguna**

We are happy to report that the local Comelec have high regard for our volunteers, recognizing their efforts to be truly [their] citizens' arm.

From Namfrel **Capiz**

As ever, we take off our hats to the courage, unselfishness and untiring efforts of our local volunteers. We cannot but thank and commend them for their help.

From Namfrel **Guimaras**

In spite of death threats Namfrel volunteers still go out of their way to render service.

Submitted by Namfrel municipal chairperson of the municipality of **Buenavista**, police chief inspector Wilfredo Campo - Due to our position as member of the non-partisan group, people around especially the candidates were careful and did not attempt to harass the voters and the BEI. And the presence of Namfrel personnel on Election Day have done a great help in the conduct of clean and honest elections.

From Namfrel **Southern Leyte**

Namfrel, and even Ppcrv, may be able to conduct advocacy for a meaningful election or field volunteers at precincts, [but] these initiatives can never assure an honest elections. At least Namfrel managed to satisfactorily realize its objectives. Namfrel stirred in the volunteers a sense of service to the Filipino people and to the integrity of the electoral institution.



Some volunteers vehemently refused to become aides to the third member of the BEI. They knew it was not their task. Volunteers also argued intensely with the BEI chairpersons regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> copy.

Recommendation to Namfrel: push for the implementation of RA 8436 now! Never give up!

#### From Namfrel **Basilan**

Linkages were established with Comelec, DECS, and the military. We had the full support of the DECS and the military. We relied much on the military especially in retrieving the 6<sup>th</sup> copies from remote and difficult areas.

The parish priests and pastoral councils decided to back off from spearheading the movement for responsible voting. They had a feeling of dismay on the electoral process – too risky and dangerous. They claimed that the cheating happened in the municipal and provincial canvassing and claimed that Namfrel did not watch carefully. And the traditional politicians still won. And the Comelec is so corrupt and bribery existed within. The clergy eventually decided to be prayer warriors.

Given the lack of volunteers, Ppcrv-Namfrel conducted poll watching orientation to party watchers. It was received positively and produced striking relations from participants.

The mere existence of Ppcrv-Namfrel, although with few volunteers, minimized in a way the cheating or the thought of it in Basilan elections. Some people made observations that cheaters were extra careful in their movements.

Some concerns for the future election monitoring efforts:



1. Intensify political education among the youth to minimize being exploited by politicians. This would hopefully result to more volunteers in the future.
2. Better friendly cooperation and coordination with Comelec (if [they] are not corrupted), DECS, and the military and police.
3. Secure the 4<sup>th</sup> copy [instead of the 6<sup>th</sup>] or seek measures to make the 6<sup>th</sup> copy readable.
4. Lobby for the separation of national and local elections.

From Namfrel **Bukidnon**

The delayed accreditation of Namfrel affected the necessary preparation for the election. In spite of the fact that Namfrel was accredited too late, we were still able to organize and operate successfully, although with some worries.

Namfrel is really a great help and remains to be an important citizens' arm. It remains credible and effective in safeguarding the sanctity of the ballots. People could not imagine the next elections without Namfrel's participation.

Majority of our volunteers resisted being recruited a partisan [watchers]. They even refuse the good offers from other parties. Even if there was lack of financial assistance, we were able to recruit and organize.

From Namfrel **Compostela Valley** (reported by Namfrel Compostela Valley chairperson, Teolulo Pasawa on 14 August)

Operation Quick Count was a great success to us with more or less 300 volunteers in the province and in the municipalities, especially those who were deputized to get the election returns [from ] the 11 municipalities.



We were the first Namfrel chapter throughout the country to fax the [results] of the first 10 precincts [from Nabunturan] to the OQC at 2130H on Election Day. We finished counting on 18 May [Day 4] at 2350H.

Namfrel as a citizens' arm really did a good job. Volunteers know what to do in situations that need their assistance. The chapter had communication facilities – from radio to fax machines. These were being provided and installed by civic spirited individuals who believe in the credibility of Namfrel.

**Fr. Joseph Diaz**, a volunteer, met an accident while he was taking keys of the ballot boxes from the Comelec. He was in a hurry because voters were already waiting and the boxes could not be opened because the keys were at the treasurer's office. The parish shouldered the bills.

Volunteers **Heracleo Bato** and **Jeremy Vegafria** dared dangerous roads and critical areas just to get the ERs intact from the municipality of Laak.

Volunteer Benita Bastasa and Carmen Valdez, in spite the fact that Comelec Maragusan did not give them the ERs, managed to give partial reports for our tally board.

Students supported by TESDA and DTI spent sleepless nights tabulating ERs. Civic spirited people donated food for the tabulators.

#### From Namfrel **Davao del Sur**

All Namfrel volunteers deserved to be recognized for their acts of courage and for allowing themselves to be part of the task in strengthening the process of free, honest, and meaningful elections and of preserving and safeguarding the integrity of the Filipino people.



Those who went to risky and far places were indeed very courageous and those who worked long hours at the OQC were commendable.

In spite of the limited time and resources it was very inspiring to note that many were willing to give time and effort for God and country. It is doubly inspiring to experience that 80% of those who volunteered were young people. The meetings, the prayer encounters, and the celebration created a deep sense of unity and bonding among the volunteers and commitment to work for the common good of our people and country.

From Namfrel **Lanao de Norte**

As expected, there was a delay in the canvassing of votes in the municipality/city level as well as in the provincial level. Because of this delay the situation was somewhat tense in many areas especially that *Puwera ng Masa* was winning over the People Power Coalition candidates. If not for the unofficial results of Namfrel the situation could [have been] worse.

The Diocese of Iligan decided to be involved only in voters' education. However, Dr. Clem Dumlao and yours truly [Godofredo Lumbo, provincial chair] were able to convince Bishop Emilio Bataclan and his parish priests to help in the collection of the ERs. Although many parish priests were quite reluctant, they recruited and organized their volunteers. If not for them, we would not have been able to collect some of the ERs. It was not just an act of courage on their part but sacrifice and humility.

Outstanding Comelec officials

1. [Norma Rosales](#), election officer of Baroy
2. [Teresita Gomera](#), election officer of Bacolod
3. [Ma. Isabel Baricuatro](#), Miago



Namfrel volunteers were able to collect all the ERs and COCs and SOVPs from their municipality showing that the BEIs were all cooperative. We attribute this to the good leadership of the abovementioned election officers. We also did not receive any negative reports on the conduct of the elections in the above-cited municipalities.

From Namfrel **Lanao del Sur**

Namfrel provided the people true information on election matters. People were doubtful of the news like who is leading in the different [elective] positions. Every political camp says their candidates are leading.

From Namfrel **South Cotabato**

Continue the participation in politics through political education and monitoring of elected officials. For this purpose, revive Concerned Citizens for Responsive Governance (CCRG, registered with the SEC in 1992).







From Namfrel **Sulu**

**A day before the elections Pangutaran and Lugus [municipalities] were having wars with Abu Sayyaf and among the candidates. But still the Namfrel volunteers accompanied the ballot boxes with the military. As a matter of fact the crowd applauded them when they were climbing up the six-by-six [military] truck.**

From Namfrel **Zamboanga city**

We had an 80-year old volunteer, with great courage and inspiration. He reported with great concern and detail the election violations he observed. According to him, he had served as Namfrel volunteer since the 1980's.

We had a good number of volunteers who braved their assigned areas despite rain, inaccessible roads, no electricity and stayed in their posts till dawn [the day following Election Day].

The Quick Count was really quick. Election Day was Monday and we were done by 1600H of Friday. Based on our observations and interactions with some people at the city canvassing, [they opined] that the OQC served as a warning signal to people at the canvassing level. The Namfrel count served as basis whether there was cheating or not. One canvasser commented, "Namfrel should not finish its counting because its results somehow influences the canvassing results."



# Postscript

2001 OQC Coverage - Senatorial and Party list (22 June 2001)

Region Province/chapter	Total precincts	Senatorial		Party list	
		Precincts reported		Precincts reported	
Total	200,987	167,780	83%	135,958	68%
1 CAR Abra	659	568	86%	592	90%
2 CAR Apayao	262	262	100%	260	99%
3 CAR Benguet	1,419	1,327	94%	862	61%
4 CAR Ifugao	430	426	99%	371	86%
5 CAR Kalinga	477	459	96%	354	74%
6 CAR Mt. Province	395	389	98%	311	79%
7 I Ilocos Norte	1,530	1,490	97%	1,450	95%
8 I Ilocos Sur	1,667	1,664	100%	1,643	99%
9 I La Union	1,833	1,741	95%	1,440	79%
10 I Pangasinan	6,101	4,718	77%	3,512	58%
11 II Batanes	50	-	0%	-	0%
12 II Cagayan	2,413	2,313	96%	130	5%
13 II Isabela	3,209	2,018	63%	2,082	65%
14 II Nueva Vizcaya	909	887	98%	887	98%
15 II Quirino	381	361	95%	335	88%
16 III Bataan	1,809	1,204	67%	494	27%
17 III Bulacan	5,806	4,456	77%	3,992	69%
18 III Nueva Ecija	4,471	4,013	90%	4,099	92%
19 III Pampanga	5,027	4,770	95%	4,153	83%
20 III Tarlac	2,888	2,711	94%	858	30%
21 III Zambales	1,828	1,632	89%	1,170	64%
22 IV Aurora	462	87	19%	87	19%
23 IV Batangas	5,111	4,003	78%	1,066	21%
24 IV Cavite	5,176	4,129	80%	3,809	74%
25 IV Laguna	5,102	2,044	40%	1,545	30%
26 IV Marinduque	587	579	99%	579	99%
27 IV Occidental Mindoro	876	876	100%	-	0%
28 IV Oriental Mindoro	1,654	1,302	79%	1,209	73%
29 IV Palawan	1,823	1,734	95%	1,732	95%
30 IV Quezon	4,121	3,376	82%	2,488	60%
31 IV Rizal	4,047	3,869	96%	3,491	86%



Region Province/chapter		Total precincts	Senatorial Precincts reported	Party list Precincts reported
32	IV Romblon	651	448 69%	345 53%
33	NCR Kalookan	2,757	1,928 70%	1,928 70%
34	NCR Las Piñas	1,125	949 84%	913 81%
35	NCR Makati	1,888	1,780 94%	1,780 94%
36	NCR Malabon	828	799 96%	799 96%
37	NCR Mandaluyong	806	785 97%	779 97%
38	NCR Manila	4,895	3,335 68%	2,608 53%
39	NCR Marikina	1,057	1,046 99%	1,045 99%
40	NCR Muntinlupa	928	922 99%	922 99%
41	NCR Navotas	480	470 98%	80 17%
42	NCR Parañaque	1,319	1,310 99%	1,215 92%
43	NCR Pasay	1,194	722 60%	812 68%
44	NCR Pasig	1,518	1,265 83%	1,265 83%
45	NCR Pateros	155	155 100%	155 100%
46	NCR Quezon City	5,709	5,685 100%	4,914 86%
47	NCR San Juan	364	362 99%	355 98%
48	NCR Taguig	1,072	1,020 95%	1,010 94%
49	NCR Valenzuela	1,177	1,076 91%	689 59%
50	V Albay	2,858	2,758 97%	2,666 93%
51	V Camarines Norte	1,071	1,019 95%	1,019 95%
52	V Camarines Sur	3,684	2,470 100%	1,431 39%
53	V Catanduanes	613	610 100%	610 100%
54	V Masbate	1,765	1,534 87%	888 50%
55	V Sorsogon	1,659	1,027 62%	925 56%
56	VI Aklan	1,212	1,156 95%	1,157 95%
57	VI Antique	1,233	1,221 99%	1,221 99%
58	VI Capiz	1,843	1,733 94%	1,843 100%
59	VI Guimaras	364	195 54%	362 99%
60	VI Iloilo	5,443	5,136 94%	4,895 90%
61	VI Negros Occidental	6,666	5,388 81%	4,685 70%
62	VII Bohol	3,029	2,843 94%	2,843 94%
63	VII Cebu	8,971	8,292 92%	1,673 19%
64	VII Negros Oriental	2,782	2,600 93%	2,232 80%
65	VII Siquijor	267	267 100%	267 100%
66	VIII Biliran	415	381 92%	381 92%
67	VIII Eastern Samar	1,115	909 82%	1,075 96%
68	VIII Leyte	4,441	4,225 95%	3,881 87%
69	VIII Northern Samar	1,356	1,090 80%	1,309 97%
70	VIII Samar	1,967	1,436 73%	1,305 66%
71	VIII Southern Leyte	1,071	1,061 99%	839 78%
72	IX Basilan	895	758 85%	490 55%



Region Province/chapter		Total precincts	Senatorial Precincts reported	Party list Precincts reported
73	IX Zamboanga del Norte	2,331	1,970 85%	1,795 77%
74	IX Zamboanga del Sur	3,612	3,509 97%	3,281 91%
75	IX Zamboanga Sibugay	1,248	1,237 99%	1,076 86%
76	X Bukidnon	2,549	2,524 99%	2,321 91%
77	X Camiguin	285	275 96%	- 0%
78	X Misamis Occidental	1,476	1,442 98%	1,471 100%
79	X Misamis Oriental	3,313	1,128 34%	1,167 35%
80	XI Compostela Valley	1,419	1,322 93%	1,321 93%
81	XI Davao del Norte	1,848	1,124 61%	1,177 64%
82	XI Davao del Sur	4,930	4,660 95%	4,572 93%
83	XI Davao Oriental	1,134	1,132 100%	1,132 100%
84	XI Sarangani	928	927 100%	927 100%
85	XI South Cotabato	2,646	2,461 93%	2,396 91%
86	XII Cotabato City	508	368 72%	10 2%
87	XII Lanao del Norte	1,983	1,389 70%	1,301 66%
88	XII Marawi City	210	119 57%	59 28%
89	XII North Cotabato	2,330	1,990 85%	1,022 44%
90	XII Sultan Kudarat	1,367	931 68%	397 29%
91	X Agusan del Norte	1,541	1,296 84%	1,224 79%
92	X Agusan del Sur	1,458	862 59%	884 61%
93	X Surigao del Norte	1,586	1,434 90%	1,469 93%
94	X Surigao del Sur	1,450	1,423 98%	1,275 88%
95	ARMM Lanao del Sur	1,719	1,055 61%	419 24%
96	ARMM Maguindanao	2,082	600 29%	- 0%
97	ARMM Sulu	1,213	600 49%	540 45%
98	ARMM Tawi-Tawi	655	428 65%	110 17%

## Cases on the mayoralty, vice-mayoralty, and on councilors that are still pending with the Comelec

Source: Commission on Elections

- 1) Electoral Contests Adjudication Department (Judicial Records Division),  
"Status Report of Cases Pending Disposition Involving Mayoralty Positions, as of September 2002"
- 2) Status Report on Election Appeal Cases Involving Mayoralty Position (10/23/2002) – First Division Status Report on Election Appeal Cases



Involving May 14, 2001 Elections as of October 15, 2002 – Second Division

1. Dolores, Abra (for the position of councilor)
2. Libacao, Aklan (2 cases)
3. Bacacay, Albay
4. Lantawan, Basilan (for the position of vice-mayor)
5. Itogon, Benguet
6. Culaba, Biliran (2 cases)
7. Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon
8. Bulacan, Bulacan
9. Malolos, Bulacan
10. Baliuag, Bulacan (2 cases, 3<sup>rd</sup> case dismissed)
11. Bocaue, Bulacan
12. Pandi, Bulacan
13. Guiguinto, Bulacan
14. Angat, Bulacan (2 cases)
15. San Ildefonso, Bulacan (3 cases)
16. Viga, Catanduanes (for the position of vice-mayor)
17. Imus, Cavite
18. Gen. Trias, Cavite (resolved on 27Aug02)
19. Badian, Cebu (for the position of councilor)
20. Mawab, Compostela Valley (2 cases)
21. Bantay, Ilocos Sur
22. Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur (2 cases)
23. Santa, Ilocos Sur
24. Lambunao, Iloilo (2 cases for the position of councilor)
25. Tinglayan, Kalinga
26. Pasil, Kalinga
27. Rosario, La Union
28. Alaminos, Laguna (3 cases)
29. Baroy, Lanao del Norte (2 cases)
30. Tangkal, Lanao del Norte (dismissed on May 30, 2002)
31. San Miguel, Leyte
32. Mobo, Masbate
33. Mandaon, Masbate
34. Taguig, Metro Manila
35. Balingon, Misamis Oriental (3 cases)
36. Calveria, Misamis Oriental (1 case, 2<sup>nd</sup> case dismissed on July 19, 2002)
37. Bindoy, Negros Oriental
38. Pikit, North Cotabato
39. San Vicente, Northern Samar
40. Lapinig, Northern Samar
41. Las Navas, Northern Samar (resolved on September 10, 2002)
42. Jaen, Nueva Ecija



43. Paluan, Occidental Mindoro  
(2 cases)
44. Mabalacat, Pampanga
45. San Jacinto, Pangasinan (for  
the position of councilor)
46. Natividad, Pangasinan
47. San Manuel, Pangasinan
48. San Francisco, Quezon
49. Macalelon, Quezon
50. Buenavista, Quezon
51. Gen. Nakar, Quezon (for the  
position of vice mayor)
52. Baras, Rizal (resolved on  
September 4, 2002)
53. Pagsanghan, Samar (2  
cases)
54. Matnog, Sorsogon
55. Casiguran, Sorsogon
56. Indanan, Sulu (2 cases)
57. Bacuag, Surigao del Norte
58. Tago, Surigao del Sur
59. Cagwait, Surigao del Sur
60. Cortes, Surigao del Sur (for  
the position of councilor)
61. Castillejos, Zambales (2  
cases)



## The Centre for Democratic Institutions

### **INDONESIAN CIVIL SOCIETY STUDY TOUR OBSERVING ELECTION MONITORING IN THE PHILIPPINES** Hosted by NAMFREL

#### **Project Origins**

The genesis of this project arose from discussions between Dr Sharon Bessell, formerly Executive Officer, CDI and Mr Laoc Telibert, NAMFREL national coordinator. Dr Bessell had observed the 1999 Indonesian elections including the important role played by Indonesian civil society. NAMFREL has been the leading force in citizen involvement in election monitoring in the Philippines since 1983. Indonesian civil society leaders interested in election monitoring could therefore benefit from seeing NAMFREL at work.

CDI funded the program and NAMFREL appointed Attorney Josefina Castro as visit coordinator. NAMFREL does not accept contributions from foreign organizations and no fee was charged for NAMFREL's considerable work in managing the program.

Valuable advice was obtained from the National Democratic Institute in the United States, which had conducted a similar program.

The selection of the Indonesian participants was undertaken by Professor Azyumardi Azra, Rector of the State Institute for Islamic Studies in Jakarta. The civil society groups from which participants were chosen included those involved in election monitoring, voter education and media analysis.

#### **Program Outline**

The program consisted of briefings and observation. The purpose was not to formally observe the Philippine Congressional elections of 14 May but to see how NAMFREL operated and to compare the experience with the 1999 Indonesian



election observation. The briefings covered the election system, election administration and election monitoring. Senior NAMFREL officials participated in the briefing but, regrettably, officials from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) were unable to provide briefings as requested.

The observation phase was conducted with 5 local NAMFREL chapters in Metro Manila each hosting two Indonesian visitors. All the Indonesian visitors had been formally designated as election observers to allow them access to the polling places. The observation phase allowed the visitors to see how electoral officials prepared the polling places, how the vote was conducted and how the count was undertaken.

Observation of the Quick Count process at the NAMFREL National Tabulation Center allowed the visitors to see how information was obtained and authenticated from this vast archipelago, the country most similar geographically to Indonesia. The observers were able to witness the many difficulties inherent in such an exercise. Computer glitches are virtually inevitable but NAMFREL had the people on hand to deal with problems. Illegible returns were a common problem as NAMFREL was receiving the sixth copy prepared with carbon paper. Another problem was food poisoning of NAMFREL volunteers at the National Tabulation Center caused by contaminated sandwiches. This occurred even though it is a NAMFREL rule that volunteers accept no food from outside sources.

The positive aspects included the dedication of the volunteers many of whom were from faith-based organizations. The visitors were also able to see the respect in which NAMFREL is held in the Philippines and the authoritativeness of its results. There were also important precedents for Indonesia in communications procedures with the many outlying islands.

### **Assessment**

One of the difficulties of conducting this sort of comparative work is that it requires some familiarity with the political system being observed. The free media in the Philippines was an excellent source of news and opinion and some newspapers have good web editions. The briefing sessions also helped to fill in holes. But the visitors for a short visit such as this are unable to become expert on the politics, electoral rules and social meaning of the process. Nevertheless, the participants picked up sufficient information to be able to make some quite sophisticated comparative observations at the debriefing session.

The issues at play in these Congressional elections were mainly related to the replacement of President Estrada by President Arroyo and the subsequent arrest of the former President on corruption charges. This aspect tended to overwhelm other issues as both sides employed a similar political rhetoric. The personality based nature of the election and the absence of a policy debate reflected similarities in Indonesia. But the dynastic nature of Philippine politics was not generally seen in Indonesia though, in Megawati, there was an obvious exception. Also the celebritocracy that was developing in the Philippines in the





form of actors and sports stars running for office has no current parallel in Indonesia.

The conduct of the elections in the Philippines appeared less orderly to the Indonesian visitors than elections in their own country. The death toll was high (approaching 70 in the course of the campaign). The electoral laws on distribution of publicity material, display of posters and presence unauthorized persons at the polling places were routinely ignored in the Philippines. The voting procedures tended to differ in small ways from one polling place to the next. There was little privacy and thus little secrecy for the voters.

Positive observations by the Indonesian observers included the way the election process was fully in the hands of the Philippine people with very little foreign involvement. The visitors saw the strength of the civil society movement involved in election monitoring as its grass roots support and volunteer base. The sponsorship of the business community of these civil society groups was seen as positive in that they were acknowledged openly. The ability of the Philippine civil society movement to network among each other was seen as another strength. Another feature that was admired by the visitors was the autonomy given to the local NAMFREL chapters. Indonesian instincts under Suharto's New Order had been to centralize all the various processes and this instinct remained. Finally, the involvement of women in the election process was commented on favourably. The large majority of teachers conducting the poll and observers monitoring it were women.

While there had been the inevitable program changes and while some of the visitors had wished to be more formally involved as election observers, the overall response to the project was very positive with many ideas emerging that might be useful in Indonesia and good contacts made with Philippine civil society leaders.

In hindsight, the major problem with the design of the project was the pressure it put on NAMFREL. NAMFREL's responsibilities are at their greatest in an election period and its volunteers had to give their attention to their core business. Yet the only time that NAMFREL can be observed in action is during the election period. Credit for the success of the project must therefore go to Attorney Josefina Castro for her commitment and devotion to ensure that the visitors had a fulfilling experience.



## PROGRAM

<b>Thursday 10 May</b>	<b>Facilitated discussion session</b>	
0900-1000	Philippine Elections	
1000-1030	Philippine Election System and Procedures	
1030-1200	Specifics on the 14 May 2001 Elections	
1300-1500	Election Administration	
	Role of Civil Society in Philippine Elections	
<b>Friday 11 May</b>	<b>Facilitated discussion session</b>	
	NAMFREL	
0900-1000	Rational/Objectives	
1000-1100	Structure and Operations	
1100-1200	Recruitment and Training of Volunteers	
1300-1400	Poll-watching	
1400-1530	Operation Quick Count	
<b>Saturday 12 May</b>	<b>Observation</b>	
1430-1730 San Juan	Observe briefing session for volunteers, White Cross,	
	<b>Sunday 13 May</b>	<b>Observation</b>
1500-1830	Observe National Tabulation Centre, Greenhills	
	<b>Monday 14 May</b>	<b>Observation of Election Monitoring</b>
0430-0500	Briefing drivers	
0500-0600	Travel to different local NAMFREL Chapters as follows Marikina – Yulianti Asther, Andi Syahputra Antipolo – Fransisca Rarassari, Edward Omar Sharif Pasig – Mohamed Firdau, Raden Dwiprasetyo Muntinlupa – Burhanudin, Nong Darol Mahmada NAMFREL National – Renta Nababan, Rudy Harisyah	
Alam		
Tuesday 15 May	Immersion and Observation of Elections and Operation Quick Count with Respective NAMFREL Local Chapters	
<i>Wednesday 16 May</i>	<i>Observation at National Tabulation Center, La Salle, Greenhills</i>	
<i>Thursday 17 May</i>	<i>Debriefing/Feedback with Cora Ignatio and Roland Rich</i>	
<i>Friday 18 May</i>	<i>Departure for Indonesia</i>	



# The organization

## Provincial and NCR chapter chairpersons

Carlos Cabochan (Kalookan)	Sr. Teresa Mabasa, DC (Parañaque)
Roberto Zamora (Kalookan)	Edgardo Tirona (Parañaque)
Jom Curio (Kalookan-District 1)	Angel Gonzales, Jr. (Pasay)
Gil Cruz (Kalookan-District 2)	Antonio Miguel (Pasig)
Inocencio Delarmente, Jr. (Las Piñas)	Albert dela Torre (Pasig-District 1)
Antonio Esteban, Sr. (Makati City)	Dominador Soriano (Pasig-District 2)
Christian Flores (Malabon)	Dir. Venancio Santidad (Pateros)
Pastor Jose Gonzales (Malabon)	Jose Valentin Pantangco, Jr. (Quezon City)
Maria Isabel Ongpin (Mandaluyong City)	Elisa Manansala-Magtibay (Quezon City)
Rolando Ingaran (Manila)	Kenneth Lingan (Quezon City-District 1)
Hill Encierto (Manila)	Victor Claravall (Quezon City-District 1)
Rodney Laurel (Manila-District 1)	Alexis Paul Dimarukot (Quezon City-District 2)
Anthony Calma (Manila-District 2)	Jo-Ed Tirol (Quezon City-District 2)
Atkimson Kua (Manila-District 1 & 2)	Rebecca Alvero (Quezon City-District 2)
Michael Bacareza (Manila-District 3)	Eirene Aguila (Quezon City-District 3)
Albert Oasan (Manila-District 4)	Edsel Ramirez (Quezon City-District 3)
Angelina Uson (Manila-District 5)	Dean Joseph Pestaño (Quezon City-District 4)
Emmanuel Deleña (Manila-District 6)	
Pastor Benedicto Navarro (Marikina)	
Francis Ferrer (Muntinlupa)	
Dean Felipe Alfonso (Muntinlupa)	
Atty. Archimedes Marquez (Navotas)	
Fr. Francis Vargas, CM (Parañaque)	



Joel Caballa (Quezon City–District 4)  
Victor Mendoza (San Juan)  
Sr. Esperanza Magana, OSA (San Juan)  
Sr. Teresita Montañano (San Juan)  
Marcelino Mozo (Taguig)  
Pastor Napoleon Saluba (Valenzuela)  
Michael Joseph Mundo (NCR)  
Pura Sumangil (Abra)  
Myrna Caoagas (Abra)  
Engr. Henry Caluducan (Apayao)  
Fr. Lorenzo Abela (Benguet)  
Fr. Valentin Dimoc (Mountain Province)  
Veneranda Cumihan (Ifugao)  
Bishop Carlito Cenon, CICM, DD (Kalinga)  
Sr. Corazon Sanchez (Kalinga)  
Bishop Ernesto Salgado (Ilocos Norte)  
Fr. Leonardo Ruiz (Ilocos Norte)  
Archbishop Edmundo Abaya, DD (Ilocos Sur)  
Fr. Raymond Ellorin (Ilocos Sur)  
Fr. Nolan Nabua (La Union)  
Bishop Jesus Cabrera, DD (Pangasinan)  
Ester Alkonga (Pangasinan)  
Bishop Jesus Galang (Urdaneta, Pangasinan)  
Fr. Jesus Melvyn Bufete (Urdaneta, Pangasinan)  
Bishop Jose Salazar, DD (Batanes)  
Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, DD (Cagayan)  
Fr. Bernard Corpuz (Cagayan)  
Fr. Andres Gumangan (Cagayan)  
Bishop Sergio Utlez (Isabela)  
Bishop Ramon Villena, DD (Nueva Vizcaya/Quirino)  
Sr. Eden Orino, SPC (Nueva Vizcaya/Quirino)  
Engr. Oscar Banzon (Bataan)  
Pastor Jonel Milan (Bulacan)  
Antonio Juliano (Bulacan)  
Bishop Sofio Balce (Nueva Ecija)  
Fr. Edwin Beley (Nueva Ecija)  
Fr. Deogracias Galang (Pampanga)  
Elvira Gonzaga (Tarlac)  
Fr. Albert Reynaldo Avenido (Zambales)  
Eric Sanchez (Zambales)  
Eliseo Ruzol (Aurora)  
Fr. Edwin Agapay (Aurora)  
Bro. Rafael Donato, FSC (Batangas)  
Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, DD (Batangas)  
Wilfredo Bleza (Batangas)  
Fr. Ferdinand Quimbao (Cavite)  
Ben Leaño (Cavite)  
Fr. Phillip Atienza (Laguna)  
Kelly Beltran (Laguna)  
Msgr. Senen Malapad (Marinduque)  
Fr. Jim Ruga (Oriental Mindoro)  
Karyl Montales (Oriental Mindoro)



Fr. Edgar Javier, SVD (Occidental Mindoro)  
Fr. Antonio Palang, SVD (Occidental Mindoro)  
Teresa Cantillo (Palawan)  
Viki Mendoza (Palawan)  
Eleuterio Arcaya (Gumaca, Quezon)  
Bishop Ruben Profugo (Lucena, Quezon)  
Reynaldo Abcede (Lucena, Quezon)  
Fr. Israelito Gabriel (Prelature Infanta, Quezon)  
Jose Roland Moya (Rizal)  
Renato Mariñas (Rizal)  
Engr. Leonardo Mendez (Romblon)  
Bishop Jose Sorra (Albay)  
John Abejuro (Albay)  
Ricardo Laureles (Camarines Norte)  
Fr. Nelson Tria (Camarines Sur)  
Fernando Cruz (Camarines Sur)  
Fr. Oscar Paraiso (Prelature of Libmanan)  
Fr. Laudemer Jose Gapaz (Catanduanes)  
Leny Darmiento (Catanduanes)  
Dr. Adolfo Almanzor (Masbate)  
Fr. Noli Alparce (Sorsogon)  
Virgilio Bautista (Aklan)  
Sally Tejares (Antique)  
Fr. Antonio Billones (Capiz)  
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**Juliet Siapno**  
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Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez (National Co-Chairperson and Chairperson, South Cotabato)

Vicente R. Jayme (National Vice chairperson and Logistics & Finance Committee)

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## The National Secretariat Team



The 2001 National Secretariat team: Nikki, Russel, Dong, Paolo, Edward, Josefa, Edgar, Efren, and Telibert

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