



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
القنصلية العامة لجمهورية الفلبين بجدة
JEDDAH

Public Advisory

PA No. EBB - 68 - 2019

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR THE 11 MAY 2020
SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN (SK) ELECTIONS**

(Jeddah, 15 September 2019) – The Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to inform everyone concerned of the attached COMELEC Resolution No. 10582 promulgated on 15 August 2019 on the “*Guidelines for the Accreditation of Domestic and International Observers*” for purposes of the 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections.

Also attached, for reference, are copies of the corresponding Applications Forms for the said accreditation.

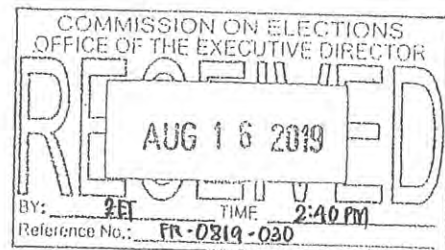
Please be guided accordingly.

(End)





Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila



EN BANC

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR THE MAY 11, 2020 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN (SK) ELECTIONS.

ABAS, Sheriff M.
PARREÑO, Al A.
GUIA, Luie Tito F.
GUANZON, Ma. Rowena Amelia V.
INTING, Socorro B.
CASQUEJO, Marlon S.
KHO, Antonio Jr. T.,

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

X-----X Promulgated: August 15, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 10582
april

WHEREAS, Philippine and foreign nationals, whether as individuals or in groups, whether representing governmental or private interests, are expected to observe the conduct of the 11 May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE);

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), as the sole government agency charged with the conduct of honest, orderly and peaceful electoral exercises, has a substantial interest in maintaining the orderliness and credibility of the elections;

WHEREAS, election observation play an important role in providing accurate and impartial assessments about the conduct of the elections and has the potential to enhance the integrity of the electoral process;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to provide for the accreditation and regulate the activities of domestic and foreign observers in the elections in accordance with the Declaration on Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers;¹

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code (OEC), and other election laws, the COMELEC has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following guidelines:

¹ Commemorated October 27, 2005, United Nations, New York.

A

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Resolution:

- a. **Domestic observer** refers to any Philippine national, group or mission, whether or not a resident of the Philippines, formally observing the conduct of the elections.
- b. **International Observer** refers to any individual, group, or mission whose nationality is other than Filipino, formally observing the conduct of the elections.
- c. **Long-Term Observer** refers to domestic and international observer of the events from voter education, filing of certificates of candidacy, campaigning, voting, counting, canvassing and proclamation of winning candidates, including the implementation of election laws, rules and regulations for the 11 May 2020 BSKE and to report their findings.
- d. **Short-Term Observer** refers to domestic and international observer of the events from campaigning, voting, counting, canvassing and proclamation of winning candidates for the 11 May 2020 BSKE and to report their findings.

SECTION 2. Qualifications for Accreditation. – Applicants must have a *bona fide* intention to participate in the conduct of the 11 May 2020 Barangay and SK Elections *exclusively* as *observers* of the electoral process, must be *free* from any political, economic or other conflicts of interests that would interfere with conducting observations impartially, and must comply with the provisions of Sections 6 and 10 hereof. Applicants are required to disclose their intention to take part in the conduct of the elections as *domestic or international observers*.

SECTION 3. Application for Accreditation – Domestic or international observers shall file personally or through an authorized representative, an Application for Accreditation at the following offices:

- a. Education and Information Department (EID), Intramuros, Manila – for international observers;
- b. Education and Information Department (EID) or Office of the Regional Election Director (ORED) – for domestic observers.

SECTION 4. Application Forms. - Application forms for accreditation shall be available at the EID and the OREDs. They may be also downloaded from the COMELEC website ([http:// www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)).

SECTION 5. Documentary Requirements. - The following shall be submitted:

- a. Duly accomplished Application Forms for accreditation;³
- b. Two (2) recent 1.5”x 1.5” colored photographs of the applicant;
- c. For international observers, endorsement issued by the ambassador or consul of the applicant’s home country; and

³ Copies of the Application Form for Domestic and International Observer are hereto attached as Annexes “A” and “B”.

- 5
- d. Terms of Reference or similar document explaining the purposes of the elections observation mission.

SECTION 6. *Period for Filing Application for Accreditation.* – The period for filing applications for accreditation shall be **anytime from the publication of this Resolution until 16 April 2020.**

SECTION 7. *Approval of Applications for Accreditation.* – Approval of applications for accreditation is hereby delegated to:

- a. The Director IV of the EID – for international observers; or
- b. The Director IV of the EID or the Regional Election Director (RED) concerned - for domestic observers.

SECTION 8. *Accredited Observer Identification Card.* – Upon approval of the applications for accreditation, the EID and OREDs shall issue the appropriate Observer Identification Card.

SECTION 9. *Privileges.* – Duly accredited observers shall have the following privileges:

- a. Access to voting, counting and canvassing, and all other stages of the electoral process, including but not limited to voter education, filing of certificates of candidacy, campaigning, other preparatory activities, and related activities organized and conducted by any of the COMELEC's Accredited Citizen's Arms and Deputies, subject to such conditions as may be necessary for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, privileged information, and the integrity of the elections;
- b. Access to information, upon reasonable request, relative to the conduct of 11 May 2020 BSKE from the following:
 1. COMELEC Official/s; or
 2. Electoral Board (EB) or Barangay Board of Canvassers (BBOC); or
 3. Accredited citizen's arm/s; or
 4. Deputized government agencies.
- c. Direct coordination with the Office of the Election Officers (OEO) / Office of the Provincial Election Supervisors (OPES) through the ORED of their place of assignment.

SECTION 10. *Code of Conduct.* – All duly accredited observers shall be bound by the Declaration on Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which is hereby adopted and made an integral part of this Resolution. Any violation of this provision shall cause the cancellation of accreditation by the issuing authority.

6

SECTION 11. *Period of Validity of Accreditation.* – The accreditation of observers shall be valid until the end of the election period or until **18 May 2020**.

SECTION 12. *Prohibited Acts.* - It shall be unlawful for any observer to:

- a. Aid any person or group of persons in whatever manner, directly or indirectly, relative to the conduct of the elections (Sec. 81 & 89, OEC);
- b. Take part or influence in any manner the conduct of the elections (Sec. 81 & 261 (j), OEC);
- c. Engage in partisan political activities, which refer to acts designed to affect the results of the elections (Sec. 79 (b), OEC);
- d. Contribute or make any expenditure in connection with any election campaign or partisan political activity (Sec. 81 & 261 (j), OEC);
- e. Enter any polling place without consent of the chairman of the Electoral Board concerned (Sec. 192, OEC);
- f. Mingle and talk with voters inside any polling place, or otherwise disrupt the proceedings in the polling place (Sec. 192, OEC);
- g. Threaten, intimidate, or actually causes, inflicts or produces any violence, injury, punishment, damage, loss or disadvantage upon any person (Sec. 261 (e), OEC); and
- h. Propagate false and alarming reports or information, transmit or circulate false orders, directives or messages relating to the conduct of the elections (Sec. 261 (z.11), OEC).

SECTION 13. *Penalty for Violation.* – Any violation of the immediately preceding Section shall be punishable as an election offense which, if found guilty, may be penalized by an imprisonment of not less than one (1) but not more than six (6) years and shall not be subject to probation. In addition, if the guilty party is a Filipino, the offender shall be sentenced to suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of right of suffrage. On the other hand, if the guilty party is a foreigner (international observer), he shall be sentenced to deportation, which shall be enforced after the prison term has been served (Section 264, OEC).

SECTION 14. *Post-election Evaluation.* – There will be a Post-election Assessment wherein accredited observers are encouraged to participate in the discussions and to submit written reports to the Commission *En Banc* of their observations.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* – This resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SECTION 16. *Dissemination.* – The EID and OREDs shall implement this Resolution.

The Executive Director shall furnish copies of this Resolution to the Office of the President, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Information Agency, and all mass media organizations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs shall furnish copies of this Resolution to all foreign embassies and consulates.

The EID shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and shall furnish copies to the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and the Election Officers.

SO ORDERED.

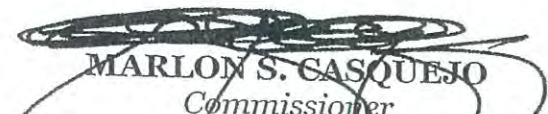

SHERIEF M. ABAS
Chairman


AL A. PARRENO
Commissioner


LUIE TITO F. GUIA
Commissioner


MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner


SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner


MARLON S. CASQUEJO
Commissioner


ANTONIO T. KHO, JR.
Commissioner

