

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
Lungsod ng Quezon

MC No. 65, s. 2007


MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

**TO : THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS,
DEPARTMENT/ REGIONAL / OPERATIONS / PROJECT MANAGERS,
PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION OFFICERS, IRRIGATION
SUPERINTENDENTS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED.**

SUBJECT : COMELEC RESOLUTION NO. 8285

Enclosed is a copy of COMELEC Resolution No. 8285 promulgated on 23 August 2007, entitled: "DEPUTATION OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS."

For your information and guidance.

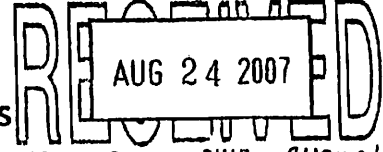

MARCELINO V. TUGAOEN, JR.
Administrator

September 24, 2007



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

COMMISSION ON ELECTION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BY: 2ET TIME: 2:10 PM

FR-807-023

DEPUTATION OF
CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS
UNDER THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH, GOVERNMENT-
OWNED AND
CONTROLLED
CORPORATIONS AND
FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE
OCTOBER 29, 2007
BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIAN
KABATAAN ELECTIONS.

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.	Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T.	Commissioner

x----- Promulgated: 23 August 2007

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RESOLUTION NO. 8285

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, the Commission on Elections may deputize certain departments under the Executive Branch, government-owned and controlled Corporations and government financial institutions, in connection with the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sanggunian Kabataan elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections has RESOLVED to deputize, as it hereby RESOLVES to deputize, the following departments under the Executive Branch, government-owned and controlled corporations, and government financial institutions, to perform specific duties relative to the conduct of the elections, as follows:

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education (DepEd) and its Department Secretary, Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, and Provincial/City Superintendents of Schools or Officers-in-Charge thereof, are hereby designated Deputies of the Commission on Elections (Commission); and the District Supervisors, School Principals or Officers-in-Charge thereof, are hereby designated as Assistant Deputies.

The Department Secretary, Undersecretaries, Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors shall comply with and enforce all orders and instructions of the Commission relative to the election duties and functions of public school teachers in connection with the aforesaid October 29, 2007 elections, and perform such other measures as are necessary including the use of all public school buildings designated as polling places/centers.

The Provincial/City Superintendents of Schools and Officers-in-Charge thereof shall:

- a. Submit to the Election Officers (EO) not later than August 29, 2007, the names of all public school teachers recommended for appointment as chairmen and members of the Boards of Election Tellers (BET);
- b. Submit to the EO the names of district supervisors and school principals recommended for appointment as assistants; and
- c. Comply strictly with the rules and regulations prescribed herein, and such other resolutions as may be promulgated by the Commission.

The District Supervisors, School Principals or Officers-in-Charge shall:

- a. Ensure that the public school teachers recommended to serve as chairman and members of the BET are not related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the BET, or to any of the candidate to be voted for in the polling place or his spouse;
- b. Receive all communications from the Commission or its deputies and transmit them to the BET concerned;
- c. Supervise public school teachers appointed to positions of chairmen and members of the BET in accordance with the instructions of the Commission;
- d. Receive complaints against any chairman or member of the BET and to transmit the same to the Commission or its representatives; and
- e. Adopt, jointly with the EO and the BET, adequate measures to safeguard election documents and paraphernalia.

The DepEd Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Provincial and City Superintendents of Schools, District Supervisors, School Principals or Officers-in-Charge thereof, and public school teachers, shall not be transferred or assigned to other positions during the election period, without the prior written authority of the Commission.

The following guidelines shall be observed in the appointment of teachers to the BET:

- a. All public school teachers who had served as chairman or member of the BET in previous elections shall be given preference in the appointment to the same precincts;
- b. Where it is necessary to constitute new or additional BET, preference for appointment shall be given to public

school teachers who efficiently served in the May 14, 2007 National and Local Elections, and who are registered voters of the city/municipality;

- c. The best qualified public school teachers on the basis of rank, position and salary shall be appointed chairman; and
- d. In case of shortage of public school teachers in the city or municipality for appointment as chairmen and members of the BET, the City Superintendent of Schools and/or District Supervisor shall immediately notify the EO of such fact.

No conference, seminar, or any school activity which might interfere, restrict, or prevent the performance of election duties of district school supervisors, school principals and public school teachers, shall be held during the election period except upon the prior written authority of the Commission.

The superintendent of schools, district supervisor or school principal shall immediately report to the EO any chairman or member of the BET who has committed, or is committing any serious irregularity or misbehavior in the performance of duties, or who is disqualified to serve as such. The EO shall relieve said chairman or member and appoint the corresponding substitute who shall immediately be directed to take over.

Immediately after the elections, the Commission and/or school officials concerned shall file against the erring chairman or member of the BET the appropriate criminal and/or administrative charges in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations of the Commission.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The Department of Finance and its Department Secretary are hereby designated deputies of the Commission to enforce and ensure that during the election period:

All Provincial, City and Municipal Treasurers shall:

- a. Remain in their present assignments and not be transferred or detailed, whether temporarily or permanently, to another province, city or municipality, except upon prior written authority of the Commission;
- b. Not be allowed to go on leave of absence from office during the period starting two weeks before and two weeks after Election Day except upon prior written approval of the Commission. They shall at all times assign responsible employees in their offices to receive telegrams, instructions and other communications from the Commission relative to election matters to ensure immediate action thereon; and

- c. Not designate temporary or casual employee as Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Treasurer.

All City/Municipal Treasurers shall:

- a. Under the direct orders and supervision of the EO, preserve, take custody and storage of election forms, ballot boxes, paraphernalia, supplies and materials entrusted to them and prevent any loss, destruction, impairment or damage thereto;

In the discharge of their duties as deputies of the Commission, the City/Municipal Treasurers shall not be subject to the command, control or orders of the city/municipal mayors or other local executive officials. In this respect, it shall be unlawful for the city/municipal mayors or local executive officials to intervene or interfere in the discharge by these deputies of their duties in connection with the elections;

- b. Keep a record of the quantity and serial numbers of official ballots, election returns and ballot boxes allocated for distribution to the various precincts in their respective jurisdiction, and furnish legible copies of such record to the EO and to the Election Records and Statistics Department (ERSD), Commission on Elections, Intramuros, Manila, immediately after distribution;
- c. Distribute, in the presence of watchers, if available, the official ballots, election returns and ballot boxes, to the BET not earlier than the first hour on Election Day. However, the Commission, upon request by the EO, and upon the recommendation by the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, may authorize the City/Municipal Treasurers, to distribute the election forms, supplies, materials and other paraphernalia, at an earlier time and with written notice to the candidates, for reasons such as, but not limited to, distance and weather condition in the locality, difficulty of transportation, number of precincts in a city or municipality, and the prevailing peace and order condition;

The BET shall issue the proper receipt stating clearly the date, the number of sets and the corresponding quantity and serial numbers of the official ballots and ballot boxes and other accountable forms and supplies.

- d. Submit the accomplished Certificate of Receipt of Official Ballots and Other Forms and Supplies (CEF No. 14) to the EO within five (5) days after Election Day; and
- e. Submit to the EO an official report on ballot boxes which were not returned to him by the BET immediately after its adjournment. The ERSD shall be furnished with a copy of said report.

The Provincial, City and Municipal Treasurers are hereby designated for the purpose herein provided as Deputies under the direct and immediate supervision of the Commission in their respective provinces, cities and municipalities.

3. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Department of Transportation and Communications and its Secretary, and all offices/agencies under the Department, are hereby designated as deputies to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Circularize to all owners and operators of land and air transportation facilities and telecommunications services, holders of certificates of public convenience, franchises or other forms of authorization, that the following provisions under the Omnibus Election Code (OEC) are election offenses:
 1. Section 89, which prohibits any candidate, political party or organization or any person, from giving or accepting transportation, free of charge, directly or indirectly during the five (5) hours before and after a public meeting, on the day preceding the election, and on Election Day;
 2. Sec. 95, which prohibits contributions for partisan political activity given directly or indirectly by natural or juridical persons operating a public utility, or by natural or juridical persons who hold contracts or sub-contracts to supply the government or any of its agencies, subdivisions or instrumentalities with goods or services or to perform construction or other works, or by natural or juridical persons who have been granted franchise, incentives, exemptions, or allocations or similar privileges or concessions by the government or any of its agencies, subdivisions or instrumentalities including government-owned or controlled corporations, or by natural or juridical persons who within one year prior to the date of the election have been granted loans or other accommodations in excess of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 100,000.00) by the government or any of its agencies, subdivisions or instrumentalities including government-owned or controlled corporations;
 3. Sec. 97, which makes it unlawful for any person or organization, whether civic or religious, to directly or indirectly solicit and/or accept from any candidate for public office or from his campaign manager, agent or representative, or any person acting in his behalf, any gift, food, transportation, contribution or donation in cash or in kind, from the commencement of the election period up to and including Election Day;
 4. Sec. 261 (o), which prohibits the use under any guise whatsoever, directly or indirectly of a printing press, radio or television station or audio-visual equipment operated by

the government or by its subdivisions, instrumentalities or agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations, or any equipment, facility, apparatus, paraphernalia or vehicle owned by the government or by its political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations or by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, for any election campaign or for any partisan political activity; and

5. Sec. 261 (dd), which penalizes any operator or employee of a public utility or transportation company operating under a certificate of public convenience who refuses to carry official election mail matters free of charge during the election period.
- b. Direct its agents to apprehend violators of the aforesaid provisions of the Omnibus Election Code and refer such violations to the Commission, through the appropriate Regional Election Director or Provincial Election Supervisor, for proper action;
- c. Require all transportation companies engaged in the operation of transportation facilities to report within thirty (30) days following the day of the election, the use, rental or hiring of their facilities by any candidate, political party, coalition of political parties, or groups or organizations in connection with the election campaign, including the amount paid for such use, rental or hiring, which report shall be submitted to the Regional Election Director of the Region, who in turn shall submit the same to the Law Department, Commission on Elections, Manila, for the purpose of proper accounting and monitoring of expenses under Secs. 100 and 101, respectively, in relation to Sec. 112 of the Omnibus Election Code; and
- d. Perform such other functions and duties which the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

4. THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AND THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

The Philippine Postal Corporation and the Postmaster General, the National Telecommunications Commission and its Commissioners, and the Telecommunications Office and its Director, are hereby designated as deputies to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Instruct their respective personnel and the management of all private telecommunications firms to give special preference to, and effect immediate transmission and delivery of messages or telegrams of the Commission, its field personnel and deputies during the election period; and between and among the Commission's field offices, its deputies and other assisting agencies until after the proclamation of the winning candidates in the elections;

- b. Impress upon such personnel and management that non-compliance with the provisions of Sec. 9 of the Omnibus Election Code on preferential transmission of official mails, messages and telegrams relative to the elections, constitutes an election offense punishable under Sec. 264 of said Code, with imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years and shall not be subject to probation. In addition, the guilty party shall be sentenced to suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage;
- c. Assign sufficient number of personnel to receive, transmit and deliver election messages ten days before election day, on election day, and ten days after election day;
- d. Make all its stations operational during the election period; and
- e. Perform such other duties and functions which the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

5. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

The Department of Energy and its Secretary, and other agencies under it, and electric cooperatives in the local government units, are hereby designated as deputies to perform the following:

- a. Provide uninterrupted power supply on the day before and on election day, until the termination and conclusion of the counting/canvassing of the election returns and proclamation of the winning candidates; and
- b. Perform such other functions that the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

6. PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

The Philippine Airlines and its President are hereby designated as deputies to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Direct the officials and employees of PAL throughout the country to give preferential accommodation of "must-ride status" to officials, employees and deputies of the Commission traveling on official business;
- b. Direct said officials and employees of the Airlines to effect immediate shipment, delivery and transmittal of COMELEC cargo and other election matters; and
- c. Perform such other duties and functions which the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

7. THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The Civil Service Commission and its Chairman, Commissioners, and other officials, are designated as deputies to enforce and implement the provision of the 1987 Constitution particularly paragraph 4, Section 2 (B), Article IX, which provides that:

"(4) No officer or employee in the civil service shall engage, directly or indirectly, in any electioneering or partisan political campaign."

(6) No candidate who has lost in any election shall, within one year after such election, be appointed to any officer in the government or any government-owned or controlled corporations or in any of its subsidiaries."

and the provisions of the Omnibus election Code, particularly Section 261:

" Section 261. *Prohibited Acts.* - The following shall be guilty of an election offence:

x x x
x x x

x x x

g.) *Appointment of new employees, creation of new position, promotion, or giving salary increases.* - During the forty five (45) days before a regular election; and thirty days before a special election; (1) any head, official appointing officer of a government office, agency or instrumentality, whether national or local, including government-owned or controlled corporations, who appoints or hires any new employee, whether provisional, temporary or casual, or creates and fills any new position, except upon authority sought unless, it is satisfied that the position to be filled is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned, and that position shall not be filled in a manner that may influence the election.

As an exemption to the foregoing provision, a new employee may be appointed in case of urgent need: *Provided*, however, that notice of the appointment shall be given to the Commission after three days from the date of the appointment. Any appointment or hiring in violation of this provision shall be null and void.

(2) Any government official who promotes, or gives any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege to any government official or employee, including those in government-owned or controlled corporation.

h) *Transfer of officers and employee in the civil service.* - Any official who makes or causes transfer or detail of any officer or employee in the civil service including public school teachers, within the election period except upon prior approval of the Commission.

i) *Intervention of public officers and employee.* - Any officer or employee in the civil service, except those holding political offices; any officer, employee, or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or any police force, special forces, home defense forces, barangay self-defense units and all other paramilitary units that now exist or which may hereafter be organized who directly, intervenes in any political activity.

except to vote to preserve public order, if he is a peace officer."

x x x

x x x

x x x

and other related provisions of law on the matter.

8. COMMISSION ON AUDIT

The Commission on Audit, its Chairman, Commissioners, and officials, are designated as deputies, and as such, shall enforce and implement the provisions of Section 3 of Republic Act 6679, in relation to the provisions of Sec. 261 (v) and (w), of the Omnibus Election Code, quoted as follows:

"Sec. 3. The construction or maintenance of provincial, city and barangay-funded roads and bridges shall be prohibited for a period of ten (10) days immediately preceding the date of election, the provisions of section 261 paragraphs (v) and (w) of the Omnibus Election Code to the contrary notwithstanding."

9. THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

The Department of Budget and Management, its Secretary and officials, are hereby designated as deputies, and as such, shall enforce and implement the provisions of Section 3 of Republic Act 6697, quoted above, in relation to Sec. 261, paragraphs (v) and (w) of the Omnibus Election Code, specifically on the prohibition against release/expenditure and disbursement of public funds.

10. THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

The Philippine Information Agency, its Director and officials, are hereby designated as deputies, and as such, they shall perform the following duties:

1. Assist the Commission in its education and information campaign on the aforesaid elections;
2. Make available to the Commission its facilities and the services of its personnel, as may be necessary to insure implementation of the programs of activities or operation plans for the Commission's information campaign;
3. Produce such information materials as the Commission may deem necessary to ensure the conduct of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan electins; *Provided*, that, in all cases:
 - a. The agency shall adhere strictly to the policy of the Commission that the education and information campaign must be absolutely impartial, objective and neutral;

- b. The expenses it may incur as such deputy for the information campaign of the Commission, i.e., production of information materials, shall be for the exclusive account of the Commission;
 - c. Any information material which the Agency, as such deputy, shall produce upon the direction of the Commission, shall be published, distributed, released only upon prior written clearance from the Commission, to ensure that nothing therein contained shall detract from or violate the policy of impartiality, objectivity and neutrality.
4. Perform such other duties and functions which the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

11. GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the Philippine National Oil Company, the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Department of Public Works and Highways, ~~the Department of Agriculture~~, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, ~~the National Irrigation Administration~~, the National Food Authority, the National Printing Office, and the Philippine Ports Authority, are hereby designated as deputies of the Commission. ✓

As such deputies, they shall place at the disposal of the Commission their land, air and watercraft, such as airplanes and helicopters, trucks, jeeps, vans, cars and the like, ships, launches, barges, and speedboats, and communication facilities, as the Commission may need from time to time. Said vehicles shall be used to ferry the personnel of the Commission and of its deputized agencies in the performance of their election duties, and to transport election forms, supplies and materials to their places of destination, particularly in areas with inadequate or without regular means of transportation.

For the above purposes, they shall provide the Commission with a list of available vehicles, together with the pilots/captains, ship masters, or drivers assigned to said crafts or vehicles. These crafts or vehicles shall be at the disposal of the Commission immediately and until the end of the election period.

EFFECTIVITY

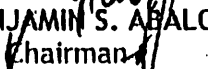
This Resolution shall take effect seven (7) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

DISSEMINATION

The Executive Director shall furnish all the above deputized officials and/or departments, offices, or agencies, through their respective heads, copies of this Resolution pertinent to their agencies.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two newspapers of general circulation and disseminate this resolution for the information of the public.

SO ORDERED.


BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman


RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner


FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner


ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner


RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner


NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner