



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF CREATING
THE COMMISSION ON
ELECTIONS' NEW NORMAL
COMMITTEE FOR THE
CONDUCT OF ELECTORAL
EXERCISES UNDER NEW
NORMAL CONDITIONS

ABAS, Sheriff M., Chairman
GUANZON, Ma. Rowena Amelia V., Commissioner
INTING, Socorro B., Commissioner
CASQUEJO, Marlon S., Commissioner
KHO, Jr., Antonio T., Commissioner

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Promulgated: December 16, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 10688

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WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 2 (1) of the Constitution provides that the Commission on Elections (Commission), shall enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum, and recall;

WHEREAS, the primordial duty of the Commission is to enforce the laws on elections and protecting the sanctity of the ballot and the free and honest expression of the sovereign will;

WHEREAS, the Commission is not imbued with technical expertise and not an authority on health issues;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) is the executive department of the Republic of the Philippines responsible for ensuring access to basic public health services by all Filipinos through the provision of quality health care and the regulation of all health services and products, and is the government's over-all technical authority on health;

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2014, former President Benigno S. Cojuangco Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 168 entitled "CREATING THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PHILIPPINES", (IATF-MEID) composed of representatives from the different departments of the Executive Department with the representative from the Department of Health as its Chairperson;

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19 virus, whereby **all government agencies and LGUs were enjoined to render full assistance and cooperation and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the Covid-19 threat**, and all citizens, residents, tourists and establishment owners were urged to act within the bounds of the law **and to comply with the lawful directives and advisories to be issued by appropriate government agencies to prevent further transmission of the COVID-19 and ensure the safety and well-being of all**;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the assessment that **COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic;**

WHEREAS, up to this date and hour, there is still **no known cure nor vaccine** for the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, the **exercise of suffrage should not be stifled by the COVID-19 virus pandemic;**

WHEREAS, it has been shown that COVID-19 virus transmission can be managed/controlled/minimized by strict observance of the minimum public health standards/protocols issued by the IATF-MEID;

WHEREAS, the Commission may incorporate the minimum public health standard/protocols issued by the IATF-MEID in the rules and regulations during electoral exercises;

WHEREAS, the Commission may deputize, with the concurrence of the President, law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the exclusive purpose of ensuring free, orderly, honest and peaceful, and credible elections;

WHEREAS, as long as the world has not found a cure nor a vaccine against this Covid-19 virus, the Commission must adjust to a "new normal" state/situation which differs from the state/situation that prevailed prior to the start of this COVID-19 pandemic, thus, the Commission deemed it imperative to do the following measures:

1. to create a core group from the different offices/departments of the Commission without requiring a formal and permanent reorganization that can be easily dissolved following the completion of the operational task, and
2. to collaborate with other appropriate agencies/departments of the government for it to continue the holding or conduct of electoral exercises and at the same time prevent further spread/transmission of this dreaded COVID-19 virus and ensure the safety and well-being of all persons participating in the conduct of electoral exercises

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines (Batas Pambansa Blg. 881), the Commission has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES** to create the **"COMMISSION ON ELECTION'S NEW NORMAL COMMITTEE" FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTORAL EXERCISES UNDER NEW NORMAL CONDITIONS.**

SECTION 1. Creation and Composition. The COMELEC's New Normal Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "CNNC" is hereby created, to be composed of the following:

Chairperson :	Commissioner-In-Charge
Vice-Chairperson	Executive Director
Members	Deputy Executive Director for Operations Deputy Executive Director for Administration

	Personnel Department Director IV Planning Department Director IV Administrative Services Department Director IV Education and Information Department Director IV Election and Barangay Affairs Department Director IV Finance Services Department Director IV Procurement Management Department Director IV COMELEC Regional Election Directors' Organization President Vulnerable Sectors Office Director III Office for Overseas Voting Director III Regional Election Directors One (1) Representative from each Office of the Chairman/Commissioners
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SEC. 2. Functions. The COMELEC's New Normal Committee shall have the following functions:

A. Administrative functions:

- 1) Consult the appropriate government agencies/departments with technical authority on health issues, for new normal minimum public health standards/protocols which aim to prevent further spread/transmission of the COVID-19 virus;
- 2) Identify, in collaboration with said appropriate agencies/departments of the government, which of the current election operational activities, need/require changes and management/administrative intervention, so that the spread/transmission of the COVID-19 virus could be managed/controlled/minimized during the operational activities for the conduct of electoral exercises;
- 3) Formulate and develop a comprehensive COMELEC New Normal Manual covering a continuing program, with due regard to the stage of the pandemic.

The administrative functions of the "CNNC" shall be exercised by the Deputy Executive Director for Administration and shall be assisted by its members in the exercise of his/her duties.

The Deputy Executive for Administration shall submit to the CIC, thru the Vice-Chairperson of the "CNNC", the "COMELEC New Normal Manual" for his/her consideration, and after review thereof, shall submit the same to the Commission En Banc for further consideration and approval.

The Deputy Executive for Administration shall likewise be in charge of the planning, budgeting and procurement of the new normal requirements, in compliance with the new normal minimum public health protocols as may be required by the appropriate government agencies/departments.

B. Operational functions:

Regularly monitor the Committee's/unit's compliance with the formulated new normal standards/protocols, as embodied in the "COMELEC New Normal Manual", in the implementation of election operational activities.

The operational functions of the "CNNC" shall be exercised by the Deputy Executive Director for Operations and shall be assisted by its members in the exercise of his/her duties.

The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall supervise the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and the Election Officers/Acting Election Officers in their implementation of the provisions embodied in the "COMELEC New Normal Manual".

- C. Common functions to Both Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Deputy Executive Director for Operations:
1. Jointly monitor, evaluate and review the implementation of the New Normal Manual at least twice a year during and after the pandemic and
 2. Perform such other functions and activities as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Resolution or as the Commission en banc or the Chairperson may direct

SEC. 3. Preparation and Issuance of a COMELEC New Normal Manual. A comprehensive COMELEC New Normal Manual shall be formulated and developed in order to address the COMELEC's response to and management of all processes concerning pandemic and post-pandemic new normal work situations. The said manual shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a. A complete list of all COMELEC work aspect, processes and activities that are affected by the New Normal change management and the corresponding programs, projects and activities that would facilitate change management implementation
- b. Formulation of an internal and external communication plan and information materials for the COMELEC employees and clientele;
- c. Respective responsibilities of all departments/units concerned.

The Director IV of the Planning Department shall draft the COMELEC New Normal Manual and submit the same to the Deputy Executive Director for Administration.

SEC. 4. Funding. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, its Members are authorized to charge against the General Appropriations Act, in coordination with the Finance Services Department, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Resolution.

SEC. 5. Delineation of Functions from those of the Steering Committee and Project Management Office's Risk Management Group and other similar units that may hereinafter be created – The functions of the "CNNC" shall only be limited to regular operations and monitoring of election operational activities with the formulated new normal standards/protocols, as embodied in the "COMELEC New Normal Manual".

New Normal matters in connection to the implementation of the Automated Election shall be under the jurisdiction of the Project Management Office.

SEC. 6. Implementation. – The administrative and operational functions of the "CNN " shall be implemented as provided in Section 2 hereof.

SEC. 7. Effectivity and publication. - This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Education and Information Department, this Commission, shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 8. Dissemination. - The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall furnish the Regional Election Directors a copy of this Resolution.

The Regional Election Directors shall furnish the Provincial Election Supervisors who shall then furnish the Election Officers/Acting Election Officers of a copy of this Resolution.

SO ORDERED.

SHERIFF M. ABAS
Chairman

MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner

SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner

MARLON S. CASQUEJO
Commissioner

ANTONIO T. KHO, JR.
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED by the Commission En Banc on December 16, 2020 pursuant to COMELEC RESOLUTION NO. 10671 entitled: "Supplemental Resolution to COMELEC Resolution No. 9936 Promulgated March 25, 2015 entitled, "Rule on the Enactment and Promulgation of Executive or Administrative Resolutions providing for other format of meetings to include online meetings applicable in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and the imposition of Community Quarantines and similar emergency situations".


ATTY. CONSUELO B. DIOLA
ACTING COMELEC SECRETARY