

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 96

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON  
ELECTIONS TO COMMENCE PREPARATIONS  
FOR THE FULL AUTOMATION OF THE 2010  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, in Article V Section 2, declared that Congress shall provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad;

WHEREAS, it further created a Commission on Elections (COMELEC) with the mandate to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful, and credible elections;

WHEREAS, among the powers and functions of the COMELEC is to enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election, plebiscite,

initiative, referendum, and recall, as stated in Article IX-C Section 2;

WHEREAS, pursuant to these constitutional provisions, Republic Act No. 9369 (RA 9369) was enacted to amend Republic Act No. 8436, An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Use an Automated Election System in the 11 May 1998 National or Local Elections and in Subsequent National and Local Electoral Exercises, Providing Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes;

WHEREAS, under RA 9369, it is the policy of the State to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful, credible and informed elections and other similar electoral exercises by improving on the election process and adopting systems involving the use of an automated election system that will ensure the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot and all election, consolidation and transmission of documents in order that the process shall be transparent and credible and that the results shall be fast, accurate and reflective of the genuine will of the people;

WHEREAS, Section 6, in connection with Section 10, of RA 9369 authorized the COMELEC to make use of an automated election system in the election to be held after the effectivity of the law in January 2007. It further stated that such a system shall be used in the May 10, 2010 elections and succeeding electoral exercises, provided that the system had demonstrated capability and been successfully used in a prior electoral exercise here or abroad;

WHEREAS, in realization of these policies and principles, the automated election system was fully utilized for the 11 August 2008 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM);

WHEREAS, the province of Maguindanao made use of the *direct recording electronic system*, where voters chose their favored candidates through the use of a touchpad screen where the candidates' names and pictures appeared;

WHEREAS, the provinces of Shariff Kabunsuan, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, on the other hand, used optical mark readers, which scanned paper ballots where the votes were indicated by means of shading circles opposite the names of the candidates;

WHEREAS, after only one (1) day, or at precisely 6:30 o'clock in the evening of 12 August 2008, three (3) assemblymen in the province of Shariff Kabunsuan have already been proclaimed, namely Roonie Quesada Sinsuat, Cahar Pendat Ibay and Abdularadzak Tomawis;

WHEREAS, as of 10:18 o'clock in the morning of 13 August 2008, two (2) more assemblymen were proclaimed, this time in the province of Tawi-Tawi, namely, Rejie Maquiso Sanali and Mustapha Joe Omar;


WHEREAS, in the province of Maguindanao, two thousand five hundred twenty-nine (2,529) out of two thousand five hundred fifty-eight (2,558) reporting units have already been canvassed;

WHEREAS, while there is still room for improvement with respect to the system currently in place, with the unprecedented voter turnout and speed with which the recent elections in the ARMM have been conducted, not to mention the diminished number of skirmishes during election day, we have achieved a considerable part of the objective of the automation of elections;


WHEREAS, in view of all the foregoing, there is no more excuse not to fully automate the elections in the entire country come 2010: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To urge the Commission on Elections to commence preparations for the full automation of the 2010 Presidential Elections.*

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
*President of the Senate*

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on August 13, 2008.

  
EMMA LIRIO-REYES  
*Secretary of the Senate*