



Republic of the Philippines  
**COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS**  
Manila

**EN BANC**

**IN RE: PETITION FOR  
ACCREDITATION AS  
COMELEC'S CITIZEN ARM FOR  
THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL  
ELECTIONS SET ON MAY 14,  
2007.**

**SPP NO. 06-140**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
FOR RESPONSIBLE VOTING  
(PPCRV),**

Promulgated: January 25, 2007

Petitioner.

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*Rene V. Sarmiento*, Commissioner:

**RESOLUTION**

This is a petition for accreditation filed by PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE VOTING (PPCRV) on November 21, 2006 seeking for nationwide accreditation as citizen's arm of the Commission in connection with the May 14, 2007 national and local elections.

The pertinent portion of the instant petition states:

“1. Petitioner is a *bona fide* national parish-based, non-partisan citizen’s movement duly organized by and composed of civic-minded citizens drawn from the various sectors of Philippines (*sic*) society mandated to help form the civic conscience of the Filipino voters and campaign for an honest, meaningful and peaceful elections. It holds its office at Room 301, Piux XII Catholic Center, 1175 United Nations Avenue, Manila, where it may be served with summons and other processes of this Honorable Commission.

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3. The PPCRV has a mass based constituency composed of individuals of voting age and registered voters with operating chapters based in various parishes in provinces, cities and municipalities throughout the country, which carry out all orders, instructions and/or directives issued/ promulgated by the PPCRV’s National Executive Board (NEB). The Council’s membership has grown in number as evidenced by the May 2004 elections where almost 500,000 PPCRV members and volunteers from 2,670 parishes participated in poll watching and election related activities.

4. Over the years, PPCRV has played a major role during and in-between election time by mobilizing its volunteers to man polling precincts in the country, helping safeguard the integrity of the ballot, ensuring a meaningful electoral process, and campaigning non-stop for voters’ education and information on key issues.

5. The PPCRV was formed in October 1991 as a program of the archdiocese of Manila in preparation for the 1992 elections. From then on, Petitioner has grown to become a national movement grounded on faith, values, and authentic democracy. In subsequent elections, petitioner has likewise managed to be accredited as a national citizen’s arm. More specifically, Petitioner has been granted due accreditation in the following electoral exercises:

- (a) 1993, 1994, 1997 and 2002 Barangay Elections;
- (b) 1993 Special Elections for Governor of Bataan;
- (c) 1994 Special Elections for Congressman of the Second District of Rizal;
- (d) 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001 and 2004 National and Local Elections;

- (e) 1996 and 2002 Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Election;
- (f) 1997 Recall Elections in Kalookan City;
- (g) 1999 Regional Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM);
- (h) 1999 October plebiscite on the creation of the City of Novaliches; and
- (i) 2000 April Recall Elections for the City Mayor of Pasay City.

6. Petitioner was likewise accredited as citizen's arm in connection with the General Registration and Continuing Registration, and other related activities under Republic Act No. 8189.

7. For the past 15 years, the PPCRV has consistently worked and aspired for honest, clean, credible and peaceful elections. Its unparalleled performance over the years as an accredited national citizen's arm from the above-listed electoral exercises has undoubtedly showed the strength of its mandate and its relevance in electoral exercises. It is with this view that the Petitioner seeks to be accredited anew as a national citizen's arm for purposes of the forthcoming National and Local Election set on May 14, 2007 to perform, among others, voter's education, voter's assistance and poll-watching functions, and such other related activities that the Honorable Commission may direct.

8. Should Petitioner be accredited again as a citizen's arm, Petitioner reiterates and makes of records the following commitments:

- (a) That it shall submit itself to direct and immediate control and supervision and comply with the orders of the Commission in the performance of its specific functions and activities provided by law, and such other functions and activities provided by law, and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign;
- (b) It is not supporting any candidate, political party, organization or coalition of political parties involved on the May 14, 2007 National and Local Elections;
- (c) It shall remain strictly non-partisan and impartial during the entire electoral exercise;

(d) It is not supported by and under the influence of any foreign government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or of any foreign, whether natural or juridical;

(e) It shall not solicit or receive, direct or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any foreign government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or from any foreign, whether natural or juridical person;

(f) It does not seek to achieve its objective, goals or programs through violence or other unlawful means, nor aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of a republican and democratic government, and

(g) It will undertake to police its ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or groups of persons who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of non partisanship and impartially (*sic*).

On December 7, 2006, the Commission *en banc* issued an Order directing Petitioner to cause the publication of its petition in a newspaper of general circulation. In the same Order, petitioner was notified of the hearing scheduled on December 14, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the COMELEC Session Hall, Intramuros, Manila.

During the Hearing, Atty. Howard M. Calleja, counsel for the petitioner, appeared. There was no oppositor. Counsel presented for markings the following exhibits:

“EXH. A”                      Manila Standard Today  
Newspaper dated December 12,  
2006.

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| “EXH. A-1” | Page B6 of Manila Standard Today where the publication can be found.                           |
| “EXH. A-2” | Newspaper text of the published petition and order.  |
| “EXH. A-3” | Affidavit of Publication issued by Manila Standard today.                                      |
| “EXH. A-4” | Newspaper clippings attached to the Affidavit of Publication.                                  |
| “EXH. A-5” | Name and signature of Mr. Mario R. Policarpio, Jr., Chief Accountant of Manila Standard Today. |

Per Order dated December 14, 2006, the Commission admitted Exhibits “A” with its sub-markings. The petitioner was directed to submit its report at the end of every electoral exercises to the Clerk of the Commission to complete its records before said office. Petitioner’s manifestation to conduct its own quick count after submission of the clear and specific step by step mechanism relative thereto was also duly noted in said Order.

On January 12, 2007, petitioner submitted its compliance to the above Order, submitting to this Commission its report of the end of every electoral exercise as well as the step by step mechanism for the conduct of a quick count pursuant to its request.

We now rule.

We have gone over the records of the case including the report submitted by petitioner in compliance to the December 14, 2006 Order of this Commission. The petitioner's participation during the past electoral exercises and its commitment towards honest, clean, credible and peaceful elections is duly noted.

After We are satisfied that the petitioner has met the stringent requirements for accreditation as prescribed in Rule 33 of the COMELEC Rules of Procedure, the Commission hereby resolves to **ACCREDIT** the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE VOTING (PPCRV) as citizen's arm of the Commission nationwide pursuant to Section 2(5) of Article IX (C) of the Constitution and Section 52(k) of the Omnibus Election Code, as amended and other election laws under the Commission's direct and immediate control and supervision, in connection with the national and local elections on May 14, 2007 charged with the following duties, responsibilities and functions:

1. Conduct poll watching functions and precincts, including assistance to voters, and in the canvassing of the votes; and,
2. Assist the Commission in voter's education campaign in every municipality, province and city including highly urbanized cities.

We are however constrained to hold in abeyance our resolution on petitioner's request to conduct a quick/parallel/unofficial count since it does not have any track record in conducting the same. Thus, the petitioner is advised to submit proof of its capability to conduct quick/parallel/unofficial counting and such other proof that its proposed method is tamper-proof in an election as crucial as the May 14, 2007 exercise which is barely a few months away.

**WHEREFORE**, premises considered, the instant petition for accreditation is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- a) That it shall be subject to the direct and immediate control of the Commission and shall comply with all lawful orders of the Commission in the performance of its specific functions and activities as provided in Section 52 (k), Omnibus Election Code, and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign to it;
- b) That it shall be non-partisan and impartial during the election period;
- c) That it shall not be under the influence whatsoever of any foreign government corporation, or entity and shall not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any foreign government, corporation or entity, and that neither shall said organization nor any of its members seek to achieve its objectives or programs through violence, or aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of a republican and democratic government;
- d) That it shall undertake to police its ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or group of persons who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of impartiality;
- e) That it shall submit to the Commission a list of its responsible officials and other officers constituting its board and there shall be no changes therein without the approval of the Commission;

- f) That it shall make available to the Commission its personnel, facilities, equipment, papers and effects and coordinate its activity with other accredited citizen's arm of the Commission;
- g) That it shall submit a weekly written report of its operations during the period of the May 14, 2007 elections; and
- h) That this accreditation shall be deemed automatically revoked in case it violates any of the conditions herein set forth.

The Executive Director of this Commission in coordination with the Clerk of Court of the Commission shall implement this Resolution immediately upon its promulgation, furnishing copies thereof to all field officers nationwide including the candidates and the political parties or coalition of political parties.

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

**SO ORDERED.**

**(Sgd.) BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.**  
*Chairman*

**(Sgd.) RESURRECCION Z. BORRA**  
*Commissioner*

**(Sgd.) FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.**  
*Commissioner*

**(Sgd.) ROMEO A. BRAWNER**  
*Commissioner*

**(Sgd.) RENE V. SARMIENTO**  
*Commissioner*

**(Sgd.) NICODEMO T. FERRER**  
*Commissioner*

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**CERTIFICATION**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that based on the records, the conclusions in the foregoing resolution were reached in consultation among the members of the Commission before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Commission sitting *en banc*.

(Sgd.) **BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.**  
*Chairman*